

SUBJECT: Consideration and possible approval and adoption of a Board Resolution concerning seat belts on school buses pursuant to SB 546 and Texas Transportation Code Section 547.701.

BACKGROUND: SB 546 amends Texas Transportation Code section 547.701, to require that school buses operated by or contracted for use by the district be outfitted with three-point seat belts by the end of the 2025-2026 school year, with limited exceptions. SB 546 eliminates an exception for this requirement for buses purchased by a school district that is a model year 2017 or earlier.

However, SB 546 adds exceptions for this requirement if equipping the bus with the required three-point seat belt would void the vehicle's warranty, or the board determines that the district's current budget does not permit the district to purchase buses with three-point seat belts. For board's making this determination, SB 546 specifies that the board must present certain information about its buses and estimated costs for replacement at a public meeting of the board and submit the corresponding information to TEA before the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

This board resolution: (1) determines that the district's budget for fiscal year 2026 does not permit the district to equip all of its buses with a three-point seat belt; (2) declares that the public report required by SB 546 was made; and (3) authorizes the administration to submit the TEA report required by SB 546 before the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend approval and adoption of the Board Resolution concerning seat belts pursuant to SB 546 and Texas Transportation Code Section 547.701.

CABINET MEMBER: Toni Lopez

CONTACT PERSON: Jodie Kennemer
Kevin Fornof

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 28, 2026