

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to enact Senate
Bill 52 or similar legislation
that would expand definitions
of "school bus" in the Florida
Statutes to include vehicles
used for transporting students
to and from public, private,
and charter schools

Resolution No. R-79-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)
1-22-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-79-25

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SENATE BILL 52 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXPAND DEFINITIONS OF “SCHOOL BUS” IN THE FLORIDA STATUTES TO INCLUDE VEHICLES USED FOR TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO AND FROM PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, school buses are regulated under state law to ensure the safety of student passengers and the public at large; and

WHEREAS, for example, the driver of any school bus carrying a school child must stop at a railroad crossing and listen and look to ensure it is safe to cross the tracks before the driver may proceed; and

WHEREAS, as another example, any person driving a vehicle on or over the roads or highways of this state shall, upon approaching any school bus which displays a stop signal, bring such vehicle to a full stop while the bus is stopped, and the vehicle shall not pass the school bus until the signal has been withdrawn; and

WHEREAS, this Board has also taken recent action to promote the safety of student passengers on school buses by adopting Resolution No. R-30-24, which approved an interlocal agreement between the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, BusPatrol America LLC, and the County providing for the enforcement of school bus stop-signal violations using camera-based infraction detection systems on school buses; and

WHEREAS, current statutory definitions of “school bus” include certain vehicles used for transporting students to and from public and private schools but do not expressly mention vehicles used for transporting students to and from charter schools; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2024, Senator Ileana Garcia (R – Miami) introduced Senate Bill (“SB”) 52 for consideration during the 2025 session of the Florida Legislature; and

WHEREAS, SB 52 would expand definitions of “school bus” in the Florida Statutes to include vehicles used for transporting students to and from public, private, and charter schools; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of students on school buses presents the same safety concerns regardless of whether the students are being transported to or from a public, private, or charter school; and

WHEREAS, to promote the safety of students and the public at large, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to enact SB 52,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to enact Senate Bill 52 or similar legislation that would expand definitions of “school bus” in the Florida Statutes to include vehicles used for transporting students to and from public, private, and charter schools.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Senator Ileana Garcia, and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye	Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye
Keon Hardemon	absent	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 22nd day of January, 2025. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl