

Memorandum of **SUPPORT**

S.5268 (Kennedy) / A.6754 (Fahy)

Allows for the reimbursement of certain costs of school districts for the purchase or lease of electric school buses

The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) *supports* the above referenced legislation and encourages its immediate enactment.

This bill would allow for an additional state reimbursement for school districts related to the purchase or lease of electric school buses or to contract with a provider to use electric school buses. In addition, this bill would authorize school districts to apply for NYSERDA grants to cover certain costs.

The bill also allows for additional reimbursements for costs incurred related to installing electric vehicle charging stations infrastructure and cost of electricity for the stations. Finally, the bill would provide certain tax exemptions to private transportation companies that lease or sell electric buses to schools.

To meet the state's lofty goals to combat and mitigate the damages from climate change, electrifying the transportation sector is paramount. By incentivizing electric school buses and offering adequate funding for school districts who wish to pursue these options but who otherwise find it to be cost prohibitive, the state would be taking a meaningful step towards achieving these goals.

The incentive structure in the bill is based on how much of a district's revenue budget is supported by state aid. In effect, those school districts that received more state aid would also receive a higher incentive percentage, which would ultimately help low-income districts transition to green transportation faster. This bill is an effective tool that allows school districts to reduce their carbon footprint, remedy air quality issues, and provide sustainable funding for renewable infrastructure.

Therefore, NYSSBA *supports* the above referenced legislation and urges your approval. For additional information, please contact NYSSBA Governmental Relations at 518-783-0200.