



LOWER HUDSON EDUCATION COALITION

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**MEMO OF OPPOSITION
S.5707-A (Mayer)/No Same As**

Details the procedure that districts must follow when dealing with disciplinary actions for bus drivers and bus drivers' assistants

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) opposes S.5707-A and the significant potential impacts that this legislation would have on school districts that currently contract out for transportation services in Westchester and Putnam counties.

The legislation as currently written would require districts that want or need to discipline a driver or a driver's assistant to abide by the collective bargaining agreement of that transportation company, except in limited instances.

While we understand the sponsor's intent, school districts should not be constrained by collective bargaining agreements in which they did not directly negotiate or enter into. We appreciate that the legislation does provide authority to Superintendents to override the collective bargaining agreement if they determine that there is a clear and present danger affecting the welfare of students. That being said, LHEC strongly believes that it should be the right of a school district to have a say in who drives their students more broadly in order to ensure their safety. Under current statute, Superintendents have the authority to approve school bus drivers and may ask that a driver be excluded if a concern has been raised with regard to that driver.

Additionally, this legislation may deter school districts from contracting out for transportation services, which is often done as a cost savings measure as districts across the state are constrained by the property tax cap.

Therefore, LHEC is opposed to S.5707-A, and urges the legislature to reconsider advancing this legislation.