



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**  
**DOT 4/2/2007**

LRB Number <b>07-0010/1</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-0203</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> Electronic seat check reminders on school buses, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

Under current law, school buses must be painted yellow and black and must have the words "SCHOOL BUS" in black letters at least eight inches high written on the front and the back of the bus. Current law also allows the Department of Transportation (DOT) to prescribe rules requiring additional equipment for school buses.

AB 203 requires any school bus that is painted yellow and black to be equipped with an electronic seat check reminder system that will require that, after turning off a school bus's ignition switch, the school bus driver must walk to the rear of the bus past each seat to check for passengers remaining in the bus and deactivate the system or an alarm will sound if the driver attempts to exit the bus. The bill requires DOT to prescribe rules for specifications, installation, and operation of these electronic seat check reminder systems. Any person who operates a school bus that is not equipped with the required electronic seat check reminder system may be required to forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$200.

Forfeitures would be levied on either the school bus owner-operator that allows a school bus to transport children in violation of this law or an inspection order, or the forfeiture would be levied on the driver-operator that fails to properly use or disables the system. DOT does not anticipate a fiscal impact on the department either in revenues or expenses.

It should be noted that the local/district level would be impacted as there are roughly 11,000 school buses operating in Wisconsin. The systems range in price from \$27.00 to \$120.00, depending on how rigorous the technological requirements are for the systems.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

Unknown