



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 579, which requires that, commencing January 1, 2035, all newly purchased or contracted school buses of a local educational agency (LEA) to be zero-emission. The bill also authorizes LEAs to request a one-time extension for up to five years if the LEA determines that the purchase or contracting of a zero-emission school bus is not feasible due to both terrain and route constraints and if certain conditions are met. The bill also authorizes extensions for frontier school districts through January 1, 2045, if certain conditions are met.

Signing this bill demonstrates our state's commitment to maintaining a healthy environment for our children through improved air quality. California is steadfast in supporting a smooth and successful transition to zero emissions vehicles, including school buses. Working with the Legislature, we have already invested \$800 million in zero-emission school buses and have committed an additional \$1 billion for this purpose. Technology for electric vehicles is advancing rapidly, leading to zero-emission school buses capable of accommodating longer routes. As the bill's January 1, 2035 implementation date approaches, I strongly encourage future legislatures and administrations to monitor zero-emission school bus technology improvements to ensure these vehicles meet the range needs of school districts and are affordably priced.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

