



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

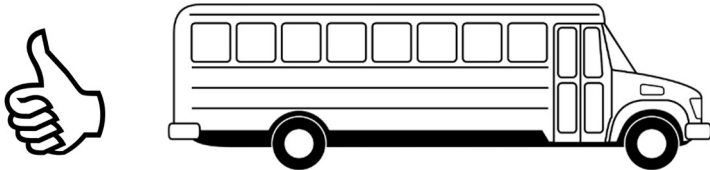
**Strength in Numbers 95,000**

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## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

**CONTACT YOUR PA LEGISLATORS AND TELL THEM TO SUPPORT HB 240 WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE MULTIPLE HEARING AID TESTS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**

**This legislation formally HB 2203 passed unanimously in the House of Representatives in the 2023-2024 and has been reintroduced as HB 240**



### Representative Kerry A. Benninghoff: Hearing Aid Test for School Bus Drivers - Previous HB 2203

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce HB 2203 (2023-2024 Legislation Session) which passed unanimously in the House of Representatives in the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. The legislation would eliminate multiple hearing aid tests for school bus drivers.

Under PennDOT’s current regulations, a school bus driver with a hearing aid is required to pass two types of hearing tests. First, a standard hearing test while wearing a hearing aid. Second, the hearing aid itself must undergo an electroacoustic analysis test to ensure that the hearing aid is functioning according to the manufacturer’s standards. This second electroacoustic analysis test is problematic as it requires the audiologist to have software specific to the brand of the hearing aid, which not all audiologists have. Since there are many brands of hearing aids, it can be difficult for school bus drivers to find medical professionals to approve their hearing aids, which can cause them to forego their school bus endorsement. Additionally, as hearing aids become more advanced, some audiologists claim the electroacoustic analysis test is becoming obsolete.

This electroacoustic analysis test is unnecessary and redundant; if a person wearing a hearing aid can pass a hearing test, their hearing aid is obviously functioning properly. To address this, my legislation simply eliminates the hearing aid electroacoustic analysis test requirement for school bus drivers. The legislation would require school bus drivers with hearing aids to pass a hearing test that demonstrates their ability to meet PennDOT’s minimum hearing standards.

Many school bus drivers are retired individuals, and due to there already being a shortage of drivers in Pennsylvania, this regulatory barrier to entry for school bus drivers should not continue. My legislation would lessen the burden on school bus drivers with hearing aids alongside audiologists who would no longer have to go through the cumbersome process to administer this hearing aid test.

I hope you will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation that will help to lessen the regulatory burden on our school bus drivers.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 240 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, FLICK, HOHENSTEIN, M. JONES, KAUFFMAN, KENYATTA, NEILSON, PICKETT, ROWE, SCHEUREN, SHUSTERMAN, SMITH AND HADDOCK, JANUARY 22, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 22, 2025

AN ACT

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for qualifications for school bus driver endorsement.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 1509(b) of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

§ 1509. Qualifications for school bus driver endorsement.

\* \* \*

(b) Proof of physical and vision examination.--

(1) Every schoolbus driver shall carry a certificate issued by an examining physician or practitioner recognized by the department pursuant to section 1508.1 (relating to physical examinations), indicating that the person has passed the prescribed physical examination, including an examination of the eyes, within the preceding 13 months. The vision examination may be made by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

(2) The physical examination may include a hearing test

subject to this subsection. A person who requires the use of a hearing aid must undergo a hearing test to ensure that the hearing aid is properly functioning in a manner that allows the person to meet the department's minimum hearing standards. The department may not require an electroacoustic analysis test report of a person's hearing aid to determine whether the hearing aid meets the manufacturer's specifications if the hearing test determines that the hearing aid is functioning in a manner that allows the person to meet the department's minimum hearing standards.

\* \* \*

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.