

# GERSTMAN PLLC

A Government Relations Law Firm

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10/20/23

## Big Picture NYS Political Discussion



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## Electric School Buses

- **Recap: NY's fiscal year 2022-2023 budget established a commitment for all new school buses purchased to be zero emission by 2027 and all school buses in operation to be electric by 2035.**
- **The NYS Electric School Bus Roadmap presents an overview of the key challenges, costs, funding mechanisms, and policy options involved in the effort to transition all school buses in NYS to zero-emission operation by 2035.**

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## Electric School Bus Continued..

- **NYSBCA Members included on the NYS Electric School Bus Roadmap Advisory Group**
- **Report Released September 2023**
- **Key Takeaways from the NYSEDA Roadmap**
  - Report will be updated in 2026 (before mandate)
  - Roadmap focused on next 3-5 years
  - By 2027, estimated fleet operators could purchase up to 3,000 electric buses or roughly 4-5 per district. (8%).
  - Assumed price parity by 2035
  - Cost to transition 3,000 vehicles by 2027 is roughly \$780 million.
    - Environmental Bond Act (NYS)
    - Federal sources
    - Local community votes

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## ***Electric School Bus Continued..***

- **Follow up questions/discussion with NYS:**
  - **Bid Specs/ NYSED**
  - **Assumptions in regard to expected price parity in 2027**

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## **Full Report can be found on NYSERDA's website:**

- <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Electric-School-Buses/Electric-School-Bus-Roadmap>
- <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Electric-School-Buses/ESB-Guidebook-Chapter-Titles-and-Summaries>

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## **Contract Modification**

- **Big Picture Review and Discussion**
- **SB 6754A (Senator Kennedy) & AB 7122 (Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre)**
- **Bill last amended May 31, 2023**
- **Governor's office connected NYSBCA with NYSED & Division of Budget**
  - NYSED's proposal
  - Follow up meeting

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## **Sales Tax Exemption for zero-emission school buses**

- **SB 5524 (Senator Skoufis)**
- **Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre ("Same As")**
- **Budget Bill – discussions with Governor's office to amend bill (strictly zero-emission buses).**

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## ***Congestion Pricing***

- **Big Picture Discussion**
- **Letters sent to leadership & discussions/meetings ensued... School bus is being considered.**
- **Goal of Central Business Tolling program is to reduce congestion, then school buses should be encouraged, not discouraged.**
  - **Providing pupil transportation is mandated under state and federal law so there is effectively no 'alternative choice' to use mass transit.**
  - **School bus promotes mass transit inherently. 1 school bus takes off 55 parents' vehicles/rideshare vehicles from the road every single day.**
  - **Cyclical tax argument**

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## **QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS**



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