



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jack M. Martins

Senator Martins: Senate Approves Legislation Authorizing Schools to Provide Transportation to Children in Need

JACK M. MARTINS June 1, 2016

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Senator Jack M. Martins (R-7th Senate District) announced that the New York State Senate passed legislation he sponsored to help children whose parents have a physically limiting disability or other special circumstances. The legislation (S248B) would grant school districts the authority to provide transportation for these children even if they live below the transportation mileage limit.

“When a parent has a serious illness or disability, caring for their children becomes all the more challenging. For some, even a routine task like bringing their child to and from school safely is physically impossible. School districts should have the flexibility to provide transportation to children in these cases if they believe it’s warranted. This legislation would provide them that authority,” said Senator Martins.

Under current law, school districts can choose to provide transportation for children who live within distances less than those required by law (two miles for grades K-8, three miles in grades 9-12), so long as it is done equally to all children in all cases. Districts have no discretion to make case-by-case exceptions for any reasons, even in cases where a parent is physically unable to bring their child to school and lives only one or two houses outside the transportation cut-off line.

Senator Martins' legislation would give school district boards of education the authority to grant exceptions and provide transportation from an existing bus stop to children living under the mileage limit in special circumstances. These circumstances could include a child's parent or guardian having a medical condition or disability that prevents them from bringing the child to school.

The legislation has been sent to the Assembly.