
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No.

191

Session of

1961

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. ROONEY, SEYLER, HAYS, SESLER
AND YATRON, FEBRUARY 8, 1961.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS, FEBRUARY 8, 1961.

AN ACT

Amending the act of April 29 1959 (P L 58) entitled "An act consolidating and revising the Vehicle Code the Tractor Code the Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Act and other acts relating to the ownership possession and use of vehicles and tractors" including additional buses within the provisions relating to school buses further providing for the operation of school buses and lights located thereon and providing penalties

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken-through is to be omitted from bill. Underscoring indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

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

1 Section 1 Clause (9) subsection (b) of section 840 act of April 29
2 1959 (P L 58) known as "The Vehicle Code" amended December 10
3 1959 (P L 1749) is amended to read

4 Section 840 School Buses Safety Requirements

5 * * *

6 (b) No person shall own or operate a school bus carrying school
7 children on the highways of this Commonwealth that in addition to the
8 other requirements of this act does not conform with the following

9 * * *

10 (9) [Every school bus originally titled in Pennsylvania prior to the
11 effective date of this amending act shall in addition to any other equip-
12 ment and distinctive markings required by this act be equipped with one
13 (1) signal lamp visible from the front and one (1) other visible from the
14 rear each showing a flashing red light] Every school bus [originally
15 titled in Pennsylvania on or after the effective date of this amending
16 act shall] and every motor bus or motor omnibus operated by common
17 carriers of passengers holding a certificate of public convenience issued
18 by the Public Utility Commission while being used exclusively for the

1 transportation of school children between their homes and school shall
2 on and after August 1 1962 in addition to any other equipment and dis-
3 tinctive markings required by this act be equipped with two alternately
4 flashing signal lamps visible from the front and two alternately flashing
5 signal lamps visible from the rear each showing a flashing red light
6 Each lamp shall be mounted as high as practicable upon the body of
7 the bus Each such additional device shall be plainly visible to operators
8 of approaching vehicles in normal sunlight and at night from a distance
9 of [one hundred (100)] five hundred (500) feet to the front or rear
10 as the case may be shall not project a glaring light and shall be of
11 types approved by the secretary

12 * * *

13 Penalty Any person violating any of the provisions of this section
14 shall upon summary conviction before a magistrate be sentenced to pay
15 a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) and not more than twenty-
16 five dollars (\$25.00) and costs of prosecution and in default of the
17 payment thereof shall undergo imprisonment for not less than five (5)
18 days and not more than ten (10) days

19 Section 2 Clauses (11) and (12) of subsection (b) section 840 and
20 subsection (c) section 1002 of the act are amended to read

1 Section 840 School Buses Safety Requirements

2 * * *

3 (b) No person shall own or operate a school bus carrying school
4 children on the highways of this Commonwealth that in addition to the
5 other requirements of this act does not conform with the following

6 * * *

7 (11) Whenever school bus loading zones have been established at
8 or near a school or along a highway it shall be unlawful for a school
9 bus operator to stop his bus to pick up or discharge pupils at any loca-
10 tion other than at such loading zones

11 The school bus operator when operating on a highway with four
12 (4) or more travelable lanes shall not stop to pick up or discharge pupils
13 who must cross the highway.

14 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply within business or
15 residence districts where there are curbs and sidewalks and reduced
16 speed zones have been established as provided in section 1002 (a) (4)

17 For the purpose of this clause school bus operators shall include
18 operators of buses operated by common carriers of passengers holding
19 certificates of public convenience issued by the Public Utility Commis-

1 sion that are being used exclusively for the transportation of school
2 children to or from school and are in compliance with the requirements
3 of clauses (7) and (9)

4 (12) The provisions of clause (7) of this section requiring labeling
5 and of clause (9) requiring alternately flashing red lights shall apply to
6 all buses when used exclusively for the transportation of school chil-
7 dren whether or not the bus is owned and operated by a person or com-
8 pany subject to the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Public Utility
9 Commission but none of the other provisions of [said clause or of clause
10 (9)] clause (7) of this section shall apply to buses subject to the juris-
11 diction of the Public Utility Commission

12 The provisions of clause (7) requiring labeling and the provision
13 of clause (9) requiring alternately flashing red lights shall not apply
14 to any bus operated by a common carrier of passengers holding a cer-
15 tificate of public convenience issued by the Public Utility Commission
16 when being used to transport school children within business or resi-
17 dence districts where there are curbs and sidewalks

18 . Penalty Any person violating any of the provisions of this section
19 shall upon summary conviction before a magistrate be sentenced to pay
20 a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) and not more than twenty-five

1 (\$25.00) and costs of prosecution and in default of the payment there-
2 of shall undergo imprisonment for not less than five (5) days and not
3 more than ten (10) days

4 Section 1002 Restrictions as to Speed

5 * * *

6 (c) Subject to the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this sec-
7 tion it shall be unlawful for the following kinds types and classes of
8 vehicles to be operated at a greater speed than hereinafter provided ex-
9 cept when such vehicles are being operated on highways under the su-
10 pervision and control of a turnpike commission in which case subject to
11 speed restrictions by such turnpike commission as hereinbefore pro-
12 vided the maximum speed limits shall be twenty (20) miles per hour
13 greater than hereinafter provided

14 Commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors R class fifty (50)
15 miles per hour

16 Motor buses and omnibuses while being used exclusively for the
17 transportation of school children between their homes and school fifty
18 (50) miles per hour on highways having four (4) or more lanes or forty
19 (40) miles per hour on highways having less than four (4) lanes

1 School buses as defined in subsection (a) of section 840 fifty (50)
2 miles per hour on highways having four (4) or more lanes or forty
3 (40) miles per hour on highways having less than four (4) lanes

4 All other motor buses and omnibuses fifty (50) miles per hour

5 All other commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors all com-
6 binations of commercial motor vehicles or truck tractors and trailers
7 or semi-trailers fifty (50) miles per hour on highways having four (4)
8 or more lanes or forty (40) miles per hour on highways having less than
9 four (4) lanes

10 * * *

11 Penalty Any person violating any of the provisions of this section
12 shall upon summary conviction before a magistrate be sentenced to
13 pay a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) and costs of prosecution and in de-
14 fault of payment thereof shall undergo imprisonment for not more
15 than five (5) days

16 Section 3 Section 1018 of the act amended August 6 1959 (P L
17 653) is amended to read

18 Section 1018 Passing and Operating School Buses

19 [(a) On highways having roadways not divided by safety islands
20 or physical traffic separation installation the driver of any vehicle ap-]

1 [proaching or overtaking a school bus conforming to the requirements
2 of this act which is being used solely for the transportation of children
3 to or from school and which has stopped for the purpose of receiving
4 or discharging one or more school children shall stop his vehicle not less
5 than ten (10) feet from the school bus and keep his vehicle stationary
6 until every school child shall have entered the bus or every school child
7 leaving the school bus at that place shall have alighted and reached the
8 side of the highway

9 (b) On highways having dual or multiple roadways separated by
10 safety islands or physical traffic separation installments the driver of
11 any vehicle overtaking a school bus which has stopped for the purpose
12 of receiving or discharging one or more school children shall stop his
13 vehicle not less than ten (10) feet from the school bus and keep his
14 vehicle stationary until every school child shall have entered the bus
15 or until every school child leaving the school bus at that place shall
16 have alighted and reached the side of the highway

17 (c) On highways having dual or multiple roadways separated by
18 safety islands or physical traffic separation installations the driver of a
19 vehicle on another roadway approaching a school bus which has stopped]

1 [for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child shall reduce
2 the speed of his vehicle to not more than fifteen (15) miles per hour and
3 shall not resume normal speed until his vehicle has passed the school
4 bus and any child who may have alighted therefrom or is about to enter
5 the school bus

6 (d) Whenever a school bus is parked at the curb for the purpose of
7 receiving children directly from a school or discharging children to en-
8 ter a school which is located on the same side of the street as that on
9 which the school bus is parked drivers of vehicles shall be permitted to
10 pass the school bus without stopping but at a speed not in excess of
11 fifteen (15) miles per hour

12 (e) The driver of any school bus being used solely for the trans-
13 portation of children to or from school shall not start his bus until
14 every child who may have alighted therefrom shall have reached a place
15 of safety]

16 (a) The driver of any vehicle approaching or overtaking a school
17 bus which has stopped on the highway or in an established school bus
18 loading zone and has in operation the alternately flashing red signal

1 lamps provided in section 810 (b) (9) shall stop his vehicle not less than
2 ten (10) feet to the front or rear of the school bus and shall keep his
3 vehicle stationary until the alternately flashing red signal lamps are no
4 longer activated If the alternately flashing red signal lamps are not ac-
5 tivated the driver of any approaching or overtaking vehicle shall be
6 permitted to pass the school bus without stopping but at a speed not in
7 excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour

8 (b) The driver of any school bus being used solely for the transpor-
9 tation of children between their homes and school shall activate the
10 alternately flashing red signal lamps only when approaching within two
11 hundred and fifty (250) feet to two hundred (200) feet of an estab-
12 lished school bus loading zone for the purpose of receiving or discharg-
13 ing school children and such flashing signals shall be kept in operation
14 until all pupils have boarded or alighted from the bus and have reached
15 a place of safety The driver shall not permit any pupil to board or
16 alight from a school bus until visible approaching and overtaking traffic
17 has stopped The driver shall not start his bus until every child who may
18 have alighted therefrom shall have reached a place of safety

19 (c) The driver of any school bus shall not activate the alternately
20 flashing red signal lamps within business or residence districts where

1 there are curbs and sidewalks when parked at the curb for the purpose
2 of receiving children directly from a school or discharging children to
3 enter a school which is located on the same side of the street as that
4 on which the school bus is parked or when stopped off the traveled por-
5 tion of a highway having four (4) or more traveled lanes

6 (d) For the purpose of this section school bus shall be as defined in
7 section 840 (a) and shall include buses operated by common carriers of
8 passengers holding certificates of public convenience issued by the Pub-
9 lic Utility Commission that are being used exclusively for the trans-
10 portation of school children to or from school and are in compliance
11 with the requirements of subsection (b) (7) and (9) of section 840 of
12 this act

13 Penalty Any person violating any of the provisions of this section
14 shall upon summary conviction before a magistrate be sentenced to pay
15 a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and costs of prosecution and in
16 default of payment thereof shall undergo imprisonment for not more
17 than ten (10) days

We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of Representatives.

.....
Chief Clerk, Senate

.....
President pro tempore, Senate

.....
Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The day of A. D. 1961.

.....
Governor