
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. **426** Session of
1961

INTRODUCED BY MR. KESSLER, MARCH 20, 1961.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS, MARCH 20, 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" further regulating the passing of school buses and school bus loading zones

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

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.

1 Section 1 Clauses (7) (9) and (10) of subsection (b) of section
2 840 act of April 29 1959 (P L 58) known as "The Vehicle Code" clause
3 (9) amended December 10 1959 (P L 1749) are 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
8 the other requirements of this act does not conform with the following

9 * * *

10 (7) Every school bus shall be of a uniform color which shall be
11 [orange] of national school bus chrome and every such bus shall be
12 labeled both in the front and in the rear with black letters not less
13 than six (6) inches in height with the words "School Bus" showing to
14 the outside Any school bus purchased or repainted shall be of a uniform
15 color of national school bus chrome and every school bus shall be
16 labeled both in front and in the rear with black letters not less than
17 eight (8) inches in height with the words "School Bus" showing to the
18 outside The type size and form of school bus signs to be displayed by
19 buses owned and operated by a person or company subject to the juris-
20 diction of the Public Utility Commission shall be determined by the

1 Secretary of Revenue the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State
2 Police and the Superintendent of Public Instruction When a school bus
3 is being operated upon a highway other than for the transportation of
4 school children either to or from school all the labels containing the
5 words "School Bus" shall be removed covered or concealed All labels
6 containing the words "School Bus" or any lettering of such words shall
7 also be removed covered or concealed at all times when any bus is
8 being used for transporting school children for contracted extra-cur-
9 ricular activities

10 * * *

11 (9) Every school bus [originally titled in Pennsylvania prior to
12 the effective date of this amending act shall in addition to any other
13 equipment and distinctive markings required by this act be equipped with
14 one (1) signal lamp visible from the front and one (1) other visible
15 from the rear each showing a flashing red light Every school bus origi-
16 nally titled in Pennsylvania on or after the effective date of this amend-
17 ing act] after September 1 1961 shall in addition to any other equip-
18 ment and distinctive markings required by this act be equipped with two
19 alternately flashing signal lamps visible from the front and two alter-
20 nately flashing signal lamps visible from the rear each showing a flashing

1 red light Each lamp shall be mounted as high as practible upon the
2 body of the bus Each such additional device shall be plainly visible to
3 operators of approaching vehicles in normal sunlight and at night from
4 a distance of [one hundred (100)] two hundred (200) feet to the front
5 or rear as the case may be shall not project a glaring light and shall be
6 of types approved by the secretary No other vehicle not conforming to
7 these specifications shall be considered a "School Bus"

8 (10) Every school district transporting pupils by school bus shall
9 establish and maintain loading zones at or near all schools to or from
10 which pupils are transported off the highway loading zones and shall
11 establish and designate school bus loading zones along the highways
12 traversed by school buses by erecting thereat official "School Bus Stop"
13 signs Such signs as may be required by this section shall be furnished and
14 maintained by the Department of Highways and shall be erected at
15 points previously selected and approved by the county superintendent
16 of schools or a person appointed by him and by the district engineer of
17 that district for the Pennsylvania Department of Highways or a per-
18 son appointed by him and shall be erected by the authorities responsi-
19 ble for the maintenance of the highway

1 Such loading zones shall be located off the travelable portion and
2 off the shoulder or berra of the highway wherever practicable Not more
3 than four school bus loading zones shall be established per mile on any
4 highway No school bus loading zone shall be established on a controlled
5 access highway at any point other than an entrance or exit to such high-
6 way in which case the school bus loading zone shall be located completely
7 off the travelable portion and off the shoulder or berm of the highway
8 School bus loading zones on highways having dual or multiple roadways
9 and on four-lane highways shall be located in such a manner as to make
10 it unnecessary for children to cross such highway upon entering or being
11 discharged from a school bus The Secretary of Highways with respect
12 to State highways and local authorities with respect to highways under
13 their jurisdiction shall have the authority to determine if any school
14 bus loading zone established as herein provided is hazardous to any other
15 users of the highway and if he or they so find he or they may discontinue
16 the same or cause it to be relocated to a point where such hazard will
17 be eliminated such point of relocation to be subject to prior approval as
18 hereinabove provided

19 * * *

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

7 Section 2 Section 1018 of the act amended August 6 1959 (P I.
8 653) is amended to read

9 Section 1018 Passing School Buses

10 (a) [On] Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section on
11 highways having roadways not divided by safety islands or physical
12 traffic separation installation the driver of any vehicle approaching or
13 overtaking a school bus conforming to the requirements of the act which
14 is being used solely for the transportation of children to or from school
15 and which has stopped on the travelable portion of the highway for the
16 purpose of receiving or discharging one or more school children shall stop
17 his vehicle not less than ten (10) feet from the school bus and keep his
18 vehicle stationary until every school child shall have entered the bus
19 or every school child leaving the school bus at that place shall have
20 alighted and reached the side of the highway or has crossed the high-

1 way safely It shall be unlawful to overtake or pass a school bus on any
2 such highway if the bus has a flashing signal lamp in operation

3 (b) [On] Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section on
4 highways having dual or multiple roadways separated by safety islands or
5 physical traffic separation installations the driver of any vehicle overtak-
6 ing a school bus which has stopped on the travelable portion of the high-
7 way for the purpose of receiving or discharging one or more school
8 children shall stop his vehicle not less than ten (10) feet from the school
9 bus and keep his vehicle stationary until every school child shall have
10 entered the bus or until every school child leaving the school bus at
11 that place shall have alighted and reached the side of the highway or has
12 crossed the highway safely It shall be unlawful to overtake or pass a
13 school bus on any such highway if the bus has a flashing signal lamp in
14 operation

15 (c) On highways having dual or multiple roadways separated by
16 safety islands or physical traffic separation installations or on four-lane
17 highways where a four (4) inch painted white line exists between road-
18 ways for travel in the opposite direction the driver of a vehicle on an
19 other roadway approaching a school bus which has stopped on the

1 travelable portion of the highway for the purpose of receiving or dis-
2 charging any school child shall reduce the speed of his vehicle to not
3 more than [fifteen (15)] twenty-five (25) miles per hour and shall not
4 resume normal speed until his vehicle has passed the school bus and any
5 child who may have alighted therefrom or is about to enter the school
6 bus

7 (d) [Whenever] The driver of a vehicle approaching or overtaking
8 a school bus shall not be required to stop when (1) such highway is
9 located within a business or residential area and has three (3) or more
10 lanes of travel or (2) such highway is located within a business or resi-
11 dential area where the speed limit as posted by official signs is thirty-five
12 (35) miles per hour or less or (3) such highway is a controlled-access high-
13 way or (4) a school bus loading zone has been established off the
14 traveled portion and shoulder or berm of the highway or (5) a school bus
15 is parked at the curb for the purpose of receiving children directly from
16 a school or discharging children to enter a school which is located on the
17 same side of the street as that on which the school bus is parked [drivers
18 of vehicles shall be permitted to pass the school bus without stopping but
19 at a speed not in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour] In every case the
20 driver of any vehicle approaching or overtaking a school bus which has

1 stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child
2 shall reduce the speed of his vehicle to not more than twenty-five (25)
3 miles per hour and shall not resume normal speed until his vehicle has
4 passed the school bus and any child who may have alighted therefrom
5 or is about to enter the school bus

6 (e) The driver of any school bus being used solely for the transporta-
7 tion of [children to or from school] school children for which the school
8 district received reimbursement from the Commonwealth shall place the
9 flashing signal lamp in operation approximately two hundred (200) feet
10 before reaching the point at which the school bus will be stopped and
11 shall keep the flashing signal lamp in operation during the time the bus
12 is stopped for receiving or discharging children He shall not start his
13 bus until every child who may have alighted therefrom [shall have
14 reached a place of safety] has reached the side of the highway or has
15 crossed the highway safely

16 Penalty Any person violating any of the provisions of this section
17 shall upon summary conviction before a magistrate be sentenced to pay

- 1 a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and costs of prosecution and in de-
- 2 fault of payment thereof shall undergo imprisonment for not more than
- 3 ten (10) days

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

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The day of A. D. 1961.

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Governor