

No. 1988-163

## AN ACT

HB 1452

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the use of side stop signal arms on school buses; and further providing for driver's duty when meeting a school bus.

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

Section 1. Section 3345(a) of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

§ 3345. Meeting or overtaking school bus.

(a) Duty of approaching driver when red signals are flashing.—Except as provided in subsection (g), the driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking any school bus stopped on the highway shall stop at least ten feet before reaching the school bus when the red signal lights on the school bus are flashing *and the side stop signal arms are activated under section 4552(b.1) (relating to general requirements for school buses)*. The driver shall not proceed until the flashing red signal lights are no longer actuated. In no event shall a driver of a vehicle resume motion of the vehicle until the school children who may have alighted from the school bus have reached a place of safety.

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Section 2. Sections 4552 and 4921 of Title 75 are amended by adding subsections to read:

§ 4552. General requirements for school buses.

\* \* \*

*(b.1) Use of side stop signal arms.—Every school bus shall be equipped with a side stop signal arm on the left side of the vehicle. The side stop signal arm shall be automatically activated whenever the bus is stopped with the red visual signals in use and shall itself contain a flashing red light connected to the same circuits as the red visual signals. The side stop signal arm is mandated according to the following schedule:*

*(1) School buses may be equipped with and use a side stop signal arm on January 1, 1989.*

*(2) Every new school bus purchased and manufactured after July 1, 1989, shall be equipped with a side stop signal arm.*

*(3) By July 1, 1994, every school bus shall be equipped with a side stop signal arm.*

*The department shall adopt regulations implementing this subsection.*

\* \* \*

§ 4921. Width of vehicles.

\* \* \*

*(e.1) School buses.—School bus side stop signal arms, as provided for in section 4552 (relating to general requirements for school buses), may, when*

*in an extended position displaying red visual signals while the vehicle is stopped and loading or discharging students, extend beyond the width limitation otherwise provided in this section.*

\* \* \*

Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 19th day of December, A. D. 1988.

ROBERT P. CASEY