

# Legislative Analysis



## SCHOOL BUS STOP-ARM CAMERA SYSTEMS

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5041 (proposed substitute H-2)**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Tyrone A. Carter**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**House Bill 5042 as referred to second committee**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Greg VanWoerkom**

**1st Committee: Military, Veterans and Homeland Security**  
**2nd Committee: Judiciary**  
**Complete to 8-31-20**

### SUMMARY:

House Bills 5041 and 5042 would respectively amend the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Pupil Transportation Act to allow a school bus to be equipped with a stop-arm camera system and to provide for use of the recorded video as evidence in certain traffic violation proceedings.

**House Bill 5042** would amend the Pupil Transportation Act to allow a school bus to be equipped with a *stop-arm camera system*. Under the bill, a school could either install and operate a stop-arm camera system on a school bus or enter into a contract with a private vendor to install and operate it.

*Stop-arm camera system* would mean a system of two or more cameras affixed to a school bus that meets the following requirements:

- Is synchronized to automatically record video or one or more sequenced photographs of a vehicle failing to stop for a school bus or passing a school bus in violation of the section 628(1) of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
- Is capable of capturing images of the vehicle, the license plate on the rear of the vehicle, and a distance of at least 200 feet in front of the school bus.
- Records the date, time, and location on an image produced by the system.

Proposed MCL 257.1820

**House Bill 5041** would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow a school bus to be equipped with a stop-arm camera system in accordance with the Pupil Transportation Act.

The bill would require a school bus that uses a stop-arm camera system to provide, if requested by an investigating *law enforcement agency*, a recorded video or photograph for use as evidence in a proceeding involving a vehicle's failing to stop for a school bus or passing a school bus in violation of the section 628(1) of the Vehicle Code. A photograph or video recorded by a stop-arm camera system would be admissible in a proceeding to the extent permitted by the rules of evidence. However, a photograph or video recorded by a stop-arm camera system would not be required for prosecution of the violation.

**Law enforcement agency** would mean any of the following:

- The Department of State Police.
- The county sheriff's department.
- The police department of a county, city, village, township, or state university or college.
- Any other governmental law enforcement agency in Michigan.

The bill would also change the civil fine for a person who is found responsible for improperly passing a school bus in violation of section 682 or a local ordinance corresponding to section 682. The fine is now \$100 to \$500; the bill would instead require a \$500 fine.

MCL 257.682 and 257.907

Each bill would take effect 90 days after being enacted. The bills are tie-barred to one another, which means that neither could take effect unless both were enacted.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 5041 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the state and on local units of government. Any increase in revenue collected from the payment of civil fines would be used to support public and county law libraries. We do not have a practical way to determine the number of violations that will occur under provisions of the bill, so cannot estimate the amount of additional revenue that would be collected for libraries. The fiscal impact on local court systems would depend on how provisions of the bill affected court caseloads and related administrative costs.

House Bill 5042 would have no direct fiscal impact on state or local government.

### **POSITIONS:**

A representative of AFSCME Council 25 testified in support of the bills. (12-3-19)

The following organizations indicated support for the bills (12-3-19):

- Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation
- Michigan Education Association
- Michigan Fraternal Order of Police

Legislative Analyst: E. Best  
Fiscal Analyst: Robin Risko

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.