

SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5969

A bill to amend 1990 PA 187, entitled  
"The pupil transportation act,"  
by amending sections 15, 17, 19, and 55 (MCL 257.1815, 257.1817,  
257.1819, and 257.1855), sections 17, 19, and 55 as amended by  
2000 PA 49.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 15. ~~—(1) A school bus shall be equipped with front~~  
2 ~~turn signal lights as provided by the manufacturer and approved~~  
3 ~~by the department of state police. These signals shall be~~  
4 ~~independent units equipped with a 4 way hazard warning switch to~~  
5 ~~cause simultaneous flashing of turn signal lamps when needed as a~~  
6 ~~vehicular traffic hazard warning.—(2) The location, **number, and**~~  
7 **color** of all exterior lamps and signals on a school bus shall be  
8 in conformance with current United States department of  
9 transportation, federal motor ~~carrier~~ **vehicle** safety

1 regulations ~~—, and with this act where applicable—~~ found in 49  
2 CFR part 571 and in section 698 of the Michigan vehicle code,  
3 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.698.

4 ~~(3) Tail lamps and signals on a school bus shall be~~  
5 ~~positioned as follows:~~

6 ~~—— (a) Two red 7 inch diameter combination stoptail lamps shall~~  
7 ~~be mounted on the rear of the school bus at a height of not less~~  
8 ~~than 15 inches or more than 72 inches above the surface upon~~  
9 ~~which the unloaded bus rests, and shall be positioned as far~~  
10 ~~apart as practicable.~~

11 ~~—— (b) Turn signals at the rear of a school bus shall be 7~~  
12 ~~inches in diameter with amber lens and shall be mounted on the~~  
13 ~~same level and outboard of the stoptail lamp combination unit.~~

14 Sec. 17. (1) This section applies to school buses  
15 manufactured before October 1, 1990 that have not been  
16 retrofitted to meet the requirements of section 19.

17 (2) A school bus shall be equipped with signal lights mounted  
18 as high and widely spaced laterally as practicable that are  
19 capable of displaying to the front 2 overhead alternately  
20 flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear 2  
21 overhead alternately flashing red lights located at the same  
22 level. These ~~sealed beam~~ lights shall have sufficient  
23 intensity to be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet  
24 in normal sunlight.

25 (3) Overhead alternately flashing stoplights shall be  
26 operated by a manually operated switch and detached from any  
27 other instrument on the bus. A flashing light shall not be

1 connected to the brakes or the service door on school buses  
2 manufactured before October 1, 1990. A 3-inch black area shall  
3 be provided around ~~sealed-beam~~ flasher lamps front and rear.  
4 Lamps indicating alternating flashing light operation shall be  
5 visible to the driver when in a normal seated position.

6 **(4) Signal lights and stoplights under this section shall be**  
7 **in conformance with current United States department of**  
8 **transportation federal motor vehicle safety regulations found in**  
9 **49 CFR part 571.**

10 Sec. 19. (1) This section applies to new school buses  
11 manufactured on or after October 1, 1990 and to school buses  
12 manufactured before October 1, 1990 that are retrofitted to meet  
13 the requirements of this section.

14 (2) A school bus shall be equipped with signal lights mounted  
15 as high and widely spaced laterally as practicable that are  
16 capable of displaying to the front 2 overhead alternately  
17 flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear 2  
18 overhead alternately flashing red lights located at the same  
19 level.

20 (3) In addition to the 4 red lights described in subsection  
21 (2), 4 amber lights shall be installed near each red signal  
22 light, at the same level, but closer to the vertical center line  
23 of the bus. The system of red and amber signal lights shall be  
24 wired so that the amber lights are energized manually, and the  
25 red lights are automatically energized, with the amber lights  
26 being automatically de-energized, when the bus service door is  
27 opened.

1           (4) The area around the lens of each overhead alternately  
2 flashing signal light and extending outward approximately 3  
3 inches shall be painted black. In installations where there is  
4 no flat vertical portion of body immediately surrounding the  
5 entire lens of a light, a circular or square band of black  
6 approximately 3 inches wide, immediately below and to both sides  
7 of a lens, shall be painted on the body or roof area against  
8 which the signal light is seen from a distance of 500 feet along  
9 the axis of the vehicle. Visors or hoods with an appropriate  
10 black background to fit their shape and roofcap may also be  
11 used. These amber and red ~~sealed beam~~ lights shall have  
12 sufficient intensity to be visible from a distance of not less  
13 than 500 feet in normal sunlight. Lights indicating alternately  
14 flashing light operation shall be visible to the driver when in a  
15 normal seated position.

16           Sec. 55. (1) A school bus driver shall actuate alternately  
17 flashing lights only when the school bus is stopped or stopping  
18 on a highway or private road for the purpose of receiving or  
19 discharging pupils in the manner provided in this act. A school  
20 bus driver shall not actuate the alternately flashing lights when  
21 operating on a public highway or private road and transporting  
22 passengers primarily other than school pupils.

23           (2) The driver of a school bus while operating upon the  
24 public highways or private roadways open to the public shall  
25 receive or discharge pupils from the bus in the following  
26 manner:

27           (a) If pupils are required to cross the roadway, the driver

1 of a school bus equipped with only the alternately flashing  
2 overhead red lights in accordance with section 17 shall activate  
3 the alternately flashing overhead red lights not less than 200  
4 feet before the stop, stop the school bus ~~as far to the right~~  
5 ~~side of~~ **on** the roadway or private road ~~as possible~~ to provide  
6 for the safety of the pupils being boarded or discharged, and  
7 continue to activate the alternately flashing overhead red lights  
8 while receiving or discharging pupils. **The bus shall stop in the**  
9 **extreme right-hand lane when boarding or discharging pupils.**  
10 Before resuming motion, the driver shall deactivate these lights  
11 and allow congested traffic to disperse where practicable. The  
12 deactivation of these lights is the signal for stopped traffic to  
13 proceed.

14 (b) If the pupils are required to cross the roadway, the  
15 driver of a school bus equipped with red and amber alternately  
16 flashing overhead lights in accordance with section 19 shall  
17 activate the alternately flashing overhead amber lights not less  
18 than 200 feet before the stop, stop the bus ~~as far to the right~~  
19 ~~side of~~ **on** the roadway or private road ~~as is possible~~ to  
20 provide for the safety of the pupils being boarded or discharged,  
21 deactivate the alternately flashing overhead amber lights, and  
22 activate the alternately flashing overhead red lights while  
23 receiving or discharging pupils. **The bus shall stop in the**  
24 **extreme right-hand lane for the purpose of boarding or**  
25 **discharging pupils.** Before resuming motion, the driver shall  
26 deactivate these lights and allow congested traffic to disperse  
27 where practicable. The deactivation of these lights is the

1 signal for stopped traffic to proceed.

2 (c) If the pupils are not required to cross the roadway, the  
3 driver of a school bus equipped with only the alternately  
4 flashing overhead red lights in accordance with section 17 shall  
5 activate the alternately flashing overhead red lights not less  
6 than 200 feet before the stop, stop the bus as far off the  
7 roadway or private road as practicable to provide for the safety  
8 of the pupils being boarded or discharged, and continue to  
9 activate the alternately flashing overhead red lights while  
10 receiving or discharging pupils. Before resuming motion, the  
11 driver shall deactivate these lights and allow congested traffic  
12 to disperse where practicable. The deactivation of these lights  
13 is the signal for stopped traffic to proceed.

14 (d) If the pupils are not required to cross the roadway, the  
15 driver of a school bus equipped with red and amber alternately  
16 flashing overhead lights in accordance with section 19 shall  
17 activate the alternately flashing overhead amber lights not less  
18 than 200 feet before the stop, stop the bus as far off the  
19 roadway or private road as practicable to provide for the safety  
20 of the pupils being boarded or discharged, deactivate the  
21 alternately flashing overhead amber lights, and activate the  
22 alternately flashing overhead red lights while receiving or  
23 discharging pupils. Before resuming motion, the driver shall  
24 deactivate these lights and allow congested traffic to disperse  
25 where practicable. The deactivation of these lights is the  
26 signal for stopped traffic to proceed.

27 (e) ~~-(e)-~~ If the pupils are not required to cross the roadway

1 and where the road has adequate width for the school bus to be  
2 pulled to the far right of the roadway or private road allowing  
3 traffic to flow and to provide for the safety of pupils being  
4 boarded or discharged, the driver ~~may~~ **shall** activate the hazard  
5 warning lights ~~not less than 200 feet~~ before the stop and  
6 continue to display the lights until the process of receiving or  
7 discharging passengers has been completed if the lawful speed  
8 limit is ~~35~~ **45** miles per hour or less. Before resuming motion,  
9 the driver shall deactivate these lights. The driver of a school  
10 bus shall only use this procedure at stops where the school  
11 administrator or person or entity under contract with a school to  
12 provide pupil transportation services has approved its use. If  
13 this hazard warning light option is not used, the driver shall  
14 use the appropriate procedure in subdivision (a), ~~or~~ (b), (c),  
15 or (d) as if pupils were required to cross the roadway.

16 (f) ~~(d)~~ Except as provided in subdivision ~~(e)~~ (e), if the  
17 pupils are not required to cross the roadway and where the bus  
18 may be pulled off the roadway or private road or where the road  
19 has adequate width for the school bus to be pulled off to the far  
20 right of the roadway or private road leaving the normal traffic  
21 flow unobstructed and to provide for the safety of pupils being  
22 boarded or discharged, the driver ~~may~~ **shall** activate the hazard  
23 warning lights ~~not less than 200 feet~~ before the stop and  
24 continue to display the lights until the process of receiving or  
25 discharging passengers has been completed. Before resuming  
26 motion, the driver shall deactivate these lights. The driver of  
27 a school bus shall only use this procedure at stops where the

1 school administrator or entity under contract with a school to  
2 provide pupil transportation services has approved its use. If  
3 this hazard warning light option is not used, the driver shall  
4 use the appropriate procedure in subdivision (a), ~~or~~ (b), (c),  
5 or (d) as if pupils were required to cross the roadway.

6 (g) ~~(e)~~ The distance of not less than 200 feet required for  
7 light activation by this subsection shall be measured on the  
8 roadway or private road on which the stop is made for receiving  
9 or discharging pupils.

10 (3) Pupils crossing the roadway upon being discharged from a  
11 school bus shall cross in front of the stopped school bus. If a  
12 school district authorizes its school bus drivers to signal  
13 pupils to cross in front of the stopped school bus, the signal  
14 shall be uniform throughout the school district.

15 (4) The driver of a school bus shall not stop the bus for the  
16 purpose of receiving or discharging pupils in the following  
17 instances:

18 (a) Within 200 feet of a public ~~highway~~ or **private** roadway  
19 intersection unless the stop is approved by the school  
20 administrator or entity under contract with a school to provide  
21 pupil transportation services.

22 (b) Upon a limited access highway or freeway, or upon any  
23 other highway or roadway that has been divided into 2 roadways by  
24 leaving an intervening space, a physical barrier, or clearly  
25 divided sections so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic if  
26 the pupils are required to cross the ~~highway or~~ roadway.

27 (c) Upon a ~~highway or~~ roadway constructed or marked to



1 permit 3 or more separate lanes of vehicular traffic in either  
2 direction if the pupils are required to cross the ~~highway or~~  
3 roadway.

4 (5) The driver of a school bus when using the alternately  
5 flashing overhead red lights shall not stop the bus on any  
6 highway or roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging  
7 pupils under the following conditions:

8 (a) If the lawful speed limit is more than 35 miles per hour  
9 and the stopped bus is not clearly and continuously visible to  
10 approaching vehicles on that highway or roadway for at least 400  
11 feet. When the distance from the stopped bus to the end of the  
12 highway or roadway is less than 400 feet, clear and continuous  
13 visibility must be available from the bus to the end of the  
14 highway or roadway.

15 (b) If the lawful speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less  
16 and the stopped bus is not clearly and continuously visible to  
17 approaching vehicles on that highway or roadway, for at least 200  
18 feet. When the distance from the stopped bus to the end of the  
19 highway or roadway is less than 200 feet, clear and continuous  
20 visibility must be available from the bus to the end of the  
21 highway or roadway.

22 (c) Within 50 feet of an intersection if the intersection is  
23 controlled by a traffic ~~stop and go~~ **control** signal.

24 (6) A school may provide instruction on proper school bus  
25 etiquette which may include, but not be limited to, boarding and  
26 leaving the bus, evacuation of the bus in an emergency, and road  
27 crossing procedures and the correct hand signal in the district,

1 if any. If a school uses school bus drivers for this  
2 instruction, the state board may reimburse the school for this  
3 training.

4 (7) For the purpose of this section, "required to cross the  
5 ~~highway or~~ roadway" does not include crossing the ~~highway or~~  
6 roadway with the assistance of a traffic control signal, or with  
7 the assistance of a school crossing guard as defined in  
8 section 57b of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL  
9 257.57b, and applies only to the ~~highway or~~ roadway on which  
10 the stop is being made.