

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5581**

A bill to amend 1990 PA 187, entitled  
"The pupil transportation act,"  
by amending section 55 (MCL 257.1855), as amended by 2006 PA 108.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 55. (1) A school bus driver shall actuate alternately  
2 flashing lights only when the school bus is stopped or stopping on  
3 a highway or private road for the purpose of receiving or  
4 discharging pupils in the manner provided in this act. A school bus  
5 driver shall not actuate the alternately flashing lights when  
6 operating on a public highway or private road and transporting  
7 passengers primarily other than school pupils.

8           (2) The driver of a school bus while operating upon the public  
9 highways or private roadways open to the public shall receive or

1 discharge pupils from the bus in the following manner:

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

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

1 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 flashing  
4 overhead red lights in accordance with section 17 shall activate  
5 the alternately flashing overhead red lights not less than 200 feet  
6 before the stop, stop the bus as far off the roadway or private  
7 road as practicable to provide for the safety of the pupils being  
8 boarded or discharged, and continue to activate the alternately  
9 flashing overhead red lights while receiving 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 (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 roadway  
19 or private road as practicable to provide for the safety of the  
20 pupils being boarded or discharged, deactivate the alternately  
21 flashing overhead amber lights, and activate the alternately  
22 flashing overhead red lights while receiving or discharging pupils.  
23 Before resuming motion, the driver shall deactivate these lights  
24 and allow congested traffic to disperse where practicable. The  
25 deactivation of these lights is the signal for stopped traffic to  
26 proceed.

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

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

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

1 use. If this hazard warning light option is not used, the driver  
2 shall use the appropriate procedure in subdivision (a), (b), (c),  
3 or (d) as if pupils were not required to cross the roadway.

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

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

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

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

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

25 (c) Upon a roadway constructed or marked to permit 3 or more  
26 separate lanes of vehicular traffic in either direction if the  
27 pupils are required to cross the roadway.

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

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

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

19           (c) Within 50 feet of an intersection if the intersection is  
20 controlled by a traffic control signal.

21           (6) A school may provide instruction on proper school bus  
22 etiquette which may include, but not be limited to, boarding and  
23 leaving the bus, evacuation of the bus in an emergency, and road  
24 crossing procedures and the correct hand signal in the district, if  
25 any. If a school uses school bus drivers for this instruction, the  
26 state board may reimburse the school for this training.

27           (7) For the purpose of this section, "required to cross the

1 roadway" does not include crossing the roadway with the assistance  
2 of a traffic control signal, or with the assistance of a school  
3 crossing guard as defined in section 57b of the Michigan vehicle  
4 code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.57b, and applies only to the roadway on  
5 which the stop is being made.

6 (8) For purposes of this section, a school bus is clearly and  
7 continuously visible if ~~approaching traffic is able to see the~~  
8 ~~entire width of the front and back of a school bus from a~~  
9 ~~horizontal line tangent with the top of the vehicle's front and~~  
10 ~~rear bumpers to a horizontal line tangent with the vehicle's most~~  
11 ~~forward and rearward roofline for the entire 400-foot sight line to~~  
12 ~~the school bus with no obstruction of the area for the entire 400-~~  
13 ~~foot sight line to the school bus in its stopped position.~~ **BOTH OF**  
14 **THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS ARE SATISFIED:**

15 (A) APPROACHING TRAFFIC IS ABLE TO SEE THE FRONT OF A SCHOOL  
16 BUS EXTENDING FROM THE ROOFLINE TO AND INCLUDING THE HEADLAMPS AT  
17 THE DISTANCES SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5).

18 (B) APPROACHING TRAFFIC IS ABLE TO SEE THE BACK OF A SCHOOL  
19 BUS EXTENDING FROM THE ROOFLINE TO AND INCLUDING THE TAIL LAMPS AND  
20 STOP LAMPS AT THE DISTANCES SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5).