

# Legislative Analysis



## SCHOOL BUS STOP-ARM CAMERA SYSTEMS

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

**House Bill 5041 (H-1) as referred to second committee**  
**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 4-23-20**

### SUMMARY:

House Bills 5041 and 5042 would respectively amend the Michigan Vehicle Code and 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.

MCL 257.682

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 Bills 5041 and 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

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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.