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BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Senate Bill 843

Sponsor: Senator Richard D. Fessler

Committee: State Affairs, Tourism, and Transportation

Mich. State Law Library

Date Completed: 3-6-90

SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 843 as introduced 2-28-90:

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to delete or repeal sections of the Code that pertain to the minimum age and examination requirements for school bus drivers, school bus fuel tank specifications, certain mandatory equipment for school buses, and motorists' obligations to stop for a stopped school bus. Further, the bill would:

- Provide that the Code's definition of "school transportation vehicle" would not apply to a motor vehicle used by a parent or his or her designee for the regularly scheduled transportation of the parent's children directly to and from school and home under the terms of a contract with the school.
- Prohibit a person driving a school bus from exceeding the speed of 55 miles per hour on a limited access highway or freeway.
- Require motorists to stop their vehicles at least 20 feet, rather than 10 feet, from a stopped school bus.
- State that passing a bus or failure to stop for a school bus, in violation of the Code or an ordinance that complies with the Code, would constitute a civil infraction, rather than a misdemeanor as currently provided.
- Provide that in addition to the civil fine and costs provided for a violation of the Code's requirements that motorists stop for a stopped school bus, the judge, district court referee, or district court magistrate could order the violator to perform up to 100 hours of community service at a school.

S.B. 843 (3-6-90)

Specifically, the bill would delete language that:

- Specifies that school buses generally are to be painted and to bear signs approved by the State Transportation Department and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Requires a school bus driver to deactivate flashing lights and permit traffic to proceed before resuming motion after stopping for passengers.
- Specifies that the provisions concerning the stopping for passengers and resumption of motion do not apply to buses inside incorporated cities or villages.
- Requires school buses to be equipped with signal lamps, mirrors, flashing red lights, and oscillating white lights.
- Specifies conditions under which a motorist need not stop upon meeting a

stopped school bus.

- Prohibits a school bus from stopping to pick up or discharge passengers unless it is completely visible to approaching drivers for at least 400 feet.
- Requires school buses to be fitted with at least one push-out window sash on each side of any bus having plastic panes.

The bill would repeal sections of the Code that:

- Specify the minimum age, examination, and licensing requirements for school bus drivers.
- Require school bus drivers to complete a safety education course.
- Specify the mandatory eligibility qualifications for school bus drivers.
- Specify the types and maximum number of persons who may be transported on a school bus.
- Provide specifications for school bus fuel tanks.

MCL 257.57c et al.

Legislative Analyst: L. Burghardt

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: A. Rich

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS SECTION

Senate Bill S.B. 843

Analysis 1st Analysis

See S.B. 534

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS SECTION

Senate Bill 843

Analysis Second

See SB 534

SENATE ANALYSIS SECTION

SENATE BILL 843

ANALYSIS Enrolled

SEE SB 534