

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Senate Bill 1128

Sponsor: Senator Frederick P. Dillingham

Committee: State Affairs, Tourism, and Transportation

Date Completed: 11-13-90

SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 1128 as introduced 11-08-90:

The bill would amend the Pupil Transportation Act to:

- Specify that a school bus or pupil transportation vehicle that originally met passenger protection Federal motor vehicle safety standards before being modified to transport handicapped or special needs passengers would be exempt from the Act's requirement that such vehicles meet or exceed the Federal standards, if the modification were approved by the Department of State Police.
- Specify that the Act's requirements concerning the installation of red and amber signal lamps on school buses would apply to all school buses after August 15, 1993. Currently, the requirements apply to new school buses manufactured on or after October 1, 1990, and school buses manufactured before October 1, 1990, that are retrofitted to meet the requirements.
- Define "pupil transportation vehicle" as any vehicle other than a school bus used for the regularly scheduled transportation of pupils to or from, or both, school or school-related events. Currently, the term applies to "any vehicle other than a school bus used to transport pupils to or from school or school-related events".
- Provide that at the direction of the school administrator, drivers of school buses equipped with only alternately flashing red lights, who board or discharge pupils who must cross a roadway, have the option of following current parking and warning procedures or parking the bus, activating the alternately flashing red lights not more than 100 feet from the stop, and deactivating the requisite hazard warning lights while receiving or discharging passengers. Current parking and warning procedures require the driver to activate the hazard warning lights not less than 200 feet before the stop, park the school bus as far off the right side of the roadway or private road as possible, deactivate the hazard warning lights and activate the alternately flashing red lights while receiving or discharging pupils.
- Specify that if pupils must cross a roadway to board a school bus or after disembarking from one, the bus would have to be parked as far off the right side of the roadway or private road as possible "for the safety of the pupils being boarded or discharged". The Act specifies only that the bus be parked as far off the right side as possible.
- Delete "leaving the normal traffic flow unobstructed" from the conditions under which a driver may activate the hazard warning lights not less than 200 feet before stopping for passengers and continue to display the lights until the passengers have completely boarded or disembarked. Currently, a driver may follow these procedures if the pupils do not have to cross

S.B. 1128 (11-13-90)

the roadway and either the bus can be pulled off the roadway or private road or the road is wide enough for the bus to be pulled off to the far right side, leaving the normal traffic flow unobstructed.

MCL 257.1805 et al.

Legislative Analyst: L. Burghardt

FISCAL IMPACT

Fiscal information is not available at this time.

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.