

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5243**

A bill to amend 1990 PA 187, entitled  
"The pupil transportation act,"  
by amending section 55 (MCL 257.1855), as amended by 2000 PA 49.

**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  
3 on a highway or private road for the purpose of receiving or dis-  
4 charging 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  
9 public highways or private roadways open to the public shall  
10 receive or discharge pupils from the bus in the following  
11 manner:

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

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

26 (c) If the pupils are not required to cross the roadway and  
27 where the road has adequate width for the school bus to be pulled

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

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

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1 transportation services has approved its use. If this hazard  
2 warning light option is not used, the driver shall use the appro-  
3 priate procedure in subdivision (a) or (b) as if pupils were  
4 required to cross the roadway.

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

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

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

17 (a) Within 200 feet of a public highway or roadway intersec-  
18 tion unless the stop is approved by the school administrator or  
19 entity under contract with a school to provide pupil transporta-  
20 tion services.

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

26 (c) Upon a highway or roadway constructed or marked to  
27 permit 3 or more separate lanes of vehicular traffic in either

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1 direction if the pupils are required to cross the highway or  
2 roadway.

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

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

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

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

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

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1 ~~instruction, the state board may reimburse the school for this~~  
2 ~~training.~~

3 (6) UPON REGISTRATION, THE PARENT OR PARENTS OR GUARDIAN OF  
4 EACH PUPIL NOT PREVIOUSLY TRANSPORTED IN A SCHOOL BUS WHO IS IN  
5 PREKINDERGARTEN, KINDERGARTEN, OR GRADES 1 TO 6 SHALL BE PROVIDED  
6 WITH WRITTEN INFORMATION ON SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AND CONDUCT. THE  
7 INFORMATION SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

8 (A) A LIST OF SCHOOL BUS STOPS NEAR EACH PUPIL'S HOME.

9 (B) GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT AT SCHOOL BUS LOADING ZONES.

10 (C) RED LIGHT CROSSING INSTRUCTIONS.

11 (D) WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL BUS STOPS.

12 (7) AT LEAST ONCE EACH YEAR, EACH PUPIL WHO RECEIVES TRANS-  
13 PORTATION IN A SCHOOL BUS WHO IS IN PREKINDERGARTEN, KINDERGAR-  
14 TEN, OR GRADES 1 TO 8 SHALL RECEIVE SAFETY INSTRUCTION THAT  
15 INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

16 (A) PROPER LOADING AND UNLOADING PROCEDURES.

17 (B) INSTRUCTION ON THE USE OF PASSENGER RESTRAINT SYSTEMS,  
18 IF AVAILABLE.

19 (C) PROPER PASSENGER CONDUCT.

20 (D) BUS EVACUATION AND LOCATION OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT AND  
21 EXITS. AS PART OF THIS INSTRUCTION, PUPILS SHALL HAVE PRACTICE  
22 DRILLS EVACUATING THE BUS THROUGH THE EMERGENCY EXIT DOORS.

23 (8) IF A SCHOOL USES SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS FOR THIS INSTRUCC-  
24 TION, THE STATE BOARD MAY REIMBURSE THE SCHOOL FOR THIS  
25 TRAINING.

26 (9) A SCHOOL SHALL NOT INCUR ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS AS A  
27 RESULT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (6), (7), AND (8).

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1       (10) ~~(7)~~ For the purpose of this section, "required to  
2 cross the highway or roadway" does not include crossing the high-  
3 way or roadway with the assistance of a traffic control signal,  
4 or with the assistance of a school crossing guard as defined in  
5 section 57b of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL  
6 257.57b, and applies only to the highway or roadway on which the  
7 stop is being made.