

# Legislative Analysis



## SCHOOL BUS STOP-ARM CAMERA SYSTEMS

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

**House Bill 4202 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Tyrone A. Carter**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**House Bill 4204 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Greg VanWoerkom**

**Committee: Judiciary**  
**Complete to 3-15-21**

### SUMMARY:

House Bills 4202 and 4204 would respectively amend the Michigan Vehicle Code and the 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 4204** would add a new section to 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 that is displaying its flashing red lights.
- 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 4202** would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow a school bus to be equipped with a stop-arm camera system in accordance with the amendments to the Pupil Transportation Act proposed by HB 4204.

Under the code, the operator of a vehicle that overtakes or meets a school bus that has stopped and is displaying its flashing red lights must stop his or her vehicle at least 20 feet from the bus and may not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the flashing lights are turned off. A driver who passes the school bus or fails to stop as required is responsible for a civil infraction.

Currently, in addition to the civil fine and costs that may be imposed for a violation, the operator may be ordered to perform up to 100 hours of community service at a school. The bill would eliminate this provision.

In addition, 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 displaying its flashing red lights. A photograph or video recorded by a stop-arm camera system would be admissible in a proceeding for a violation to the extent permitted by the Michigan 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 its enactment.

The bills are tie-barred to one another, which means that neither could take effect unless both were enacted.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

House Bills 4202 and 4204 are reintroductions of HBs 5041 and 5042 of the 2019-20 legislative session. Those bills were considered by the House Military, Veterans and Homeland Security committee and referred to the House Judiciary committee.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bills 4202 and 4204 would have no direct fiscal impact on state or local government.

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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.