

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5470

As Passed House

April 9, 1997

Title: An act relating to passing school buses.

Brief Description: Doubling penalties for passing school buses.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Rossi, Hargrove, Benton, Sellar, Morton, Winsley, Finkbeiner, Oke, Hochstatter, Long, Swecker, Johnson, Zarelli and Strannigan).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation Policy & Budget: 4/3/97, 4/7/97 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/9/97, 98-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION POLICY & BUDGET

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 26 members: Representatives K. Schmidt, Chairman; Hankins, Vice Chairman; Mielke, Vice Chairman; Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Fisher, Ranking Minority Member; Blalock, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Cooper, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Backlund; Buck; Cairnes; Chandler; Constantine; DeBolt; Gardner; Hatfield; Johnson; Murray; O'Brien; Ogden; Radcliff; Robertson; Romero; Scott; Skinner; Wood and Zellinsky.

Staff: Jeff Doyle (786-7322).

Background: The basic fine for the traffic infraction of failing to stop for a school bus that has its red lights on (i.e., discharging or picking up school children) is \$80. There is an additional surcharge for court costs.

Summary of Bill: The basic fine for the traffic infraction of failing to stop for a school bus that has its red lights on is doubled, to \$160. These fines may not be waived, reduced or suspended. Fifty percent of this fine (\$80) is deposited into the School Zone Safety Account to be used for traffic safety in and around schools, and for student safety in school bus loading and unloading zones.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Too many drivers pass school buses illegally when students are loading or unloading from the bus. This is a danger, especially to younger children.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Dino Rossi, prime sponsor; Karen Luton, Camas school bus driver; Richard Kelly, North Thurston school bus driver; Helen Burrows, Ellensburg school bus driver; and Steve Lind, Washington Traffic Safety Commission.