

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5470

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As Passed Senate, March 13, 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: 2/27/97, 3/5/97 [DPS].  
Passed Senate, 3/13/97, 48-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5470 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Prince, Chair; Benton, Vice Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; Goings, Haugen, Heavey, Horn, Jacobsen, Morton, Oke, Patterson and Rasmussen.

**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:** PRO: Senator Rossi, prime sponsor; Susan Braukus, Sharron Goodman, Connie O'Donnell, Barbara Johnson, Carol Tennison, Walt Lenahan, Marge Durfey, Public School Employees; Marsh Pugh, WA State Patrol; NEUTRAL: Steve Lind, Traffic Safety Commission.