
SENATE BILL 5470

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Rossi, Hargrove, Benton, Sellar, Morton, Winsley, Finkbeiner, Oke, Hochstatter, Long, Swecker, Johnson, Zarelli and Strannigan

Read first time 01/28/97. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to passing school buses; amending RCW 46.61.370 and
2 46.37.193; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.370 and 1990 c 241 s 8 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The driver of a vehicle upon overtaking or meeting from either
7 direction any school bus which has stopped on the roadway for the
8 purpose of receiving or discharging any school children shall stop the
9 vehicle before reaching such school bus when there is in operation on
10 said school bus a visual signal as specified in RCW 46.37.190 and said
11 driver shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion or the
12 visual signals are no longer activated.

13 (2) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway divided into separate
14 roadways as provided in RCW 46.61.150 need not stop upon meeting a
15 school bus which is proceeding in the opposite direction and is stopped
16 for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children.

17 (3) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with three or more
18 marked traffic lanes need not stop upon meeting a school bus which is

1 proceeding in the opposite direction and is stopped for the purpose of
2 receiving or discharging school children.

3 (4) The driver of a school bus shall actuate the visual signals
4 required by RCW 46.37.190 only when such bus is stopped on the roadway
5 for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children.

6 (5) The driver of a school bus may stop completely off the roadway
7 for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children only when
8 the school children do not have to cross the roadway. The school bus
9 driver shall actuate the hazard warning lamps as defined in RCW
10 46.37.215 before loading or unloading school children at such stops.

11 (6) A person found to have committed an infraction of subsection
12 (1) of this section shall be assessed a monetary penalty equal to twice
13 the total penalty assessed under RCW 46.63.110. This penalty may not
14 be waived, reduced, or suspended. Fifty percent of the money so
15 collected shall be deposited into the school zone safety account in the
16 custody of the state treasurer and disbursed in accordance with RCW
17 46.61.440(3).

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.37.193 and 1995 c 141 s 2 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 Every school bus and private carrier bus, in addition to any other
21 equipment or distinctive markings required by this chapter, shall bear
22 upon the front and rear thereof, above the windows thereof, plainly
23 visible signs containing only the words "school bus" on a school bus
24 and only the words "private carrier bus" on a private carrier bus in
25 letters not less than eight inches in height, and in addition shall be
26 equipped with visual signals meeting the requirements of RCW 46.37.190.
27 School districts may affix signs designed according to RCW 46.61.380
28 informing motorists of the monetary penalty for failure to stop for a
29 school bus when the visual signals are activated.

30 However, a private carrier bus that regularly transports children
31 to and from a private school or in connection with school activities
32 may display the words "school bus" in a manner provided in this section
33 and need not comply with the requirements set forth in the most recent
34 edition of "Specifications for School Buses" published by the
35 superintendent of public instruction.

--- END ---