

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6102

C 95 L 20
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Adjusting stop signal requirements for school buses.

Sponsors: Senators Wellman, Mullet, Wilson, C. and Sheldon; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Senate Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

Background: School buses are used to transport students to and from school or in connection with designated school activities.

School district boards of directors are responsible for operating student transportation programs. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration establishes federal safety requirements for school buses, including requirements for structural integrity, periodic inspections, and school bus seating and equipment standards. In addition to the federal requirements, states may also adopt requirements for school buses and their safe operation.

Under both federal and state law, school buses must be equipped with a stop arm that extends from the bus indicating that traffic must stop to allow children to pass safely. The size and style of the stop sign for buses are set out in federal rule and state law. Currently, the federal rule requires that the word "stop" be at least 5.9 inches high. The state statute requires the word "stop" be at least eight inches high.

Summary: The state requirement that the word "stop" displayed on a school bus stop arm is changed to specify the letters be at least 5.9 inches high.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	42	3
House	97	0

Effective: June 11, 2020

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