



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5663

LCO No. 2218

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING DIESEL SCHOOL BUSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-275 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

3 (a) The term "school bus" means any motor bus painted,
4 constructed, equipped and registered as hereinafter provided, which is
5 regularly used for transporting school children to and from school or
6 school activities whether or not for compensation or under contract to
7 provide such service. No vehicle shall be registered as a school bus
8 unless it complies with all requirements of sections 14-275 to 14-281,
9 inclusive, as to color, markings, equipment and inspection, and each
10 such vehicle shall be inspected prior to such registration in accordance
11 with regulations prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.
12 The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may also conduct
13 random, unannounced inspections of any registered school bus. The
14 provisions of said sections requiring other vehicles to stop at the signal
15 of the operator of a registered school bus shall not apply to a signal by
16 the operator of any vehicle not registered as a school bus and not
17 complying with all requirements for such registration.

18 (b) Each school bus shall be painted a uniform yellow color known
19 as "National School Bus Glossy Yellow", except for the fenders and
20 trim which may be painted black and the roof which may be painted
21 white, and shall have conspicuously painted on the rear and on the
22 front thereof, in black lettering of a size to be determined by the
23 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the words "School Bus-Stop on
24 Signal", except that each school bus equipped with an eight-light
25 warning system shall have the words "School Bus" painted on the rear
26 and on the front thereof in such lettering. The sides of such vehicles
27 may be inscribed with the words "School Bus", the school name or such
28 other legend or device as may be necessary for purposes of
29 identification or safety.

30 (c) Each school bus shall be equipped with special automatic,
31 electrically-operated flashing stop signals, which shall be independent
32 and separate from the braking, stop and tail lights of standard
33 equipment. Such flashing lights may include automatic traffic
34 signalling devices showing red and amber lights and shall be so
35 located that adequate warning will be afforded to both oncoming and
36 overtaking traffic, except that each school bus manufactured on and
37 after October 1, 1984, and registered for use in this state shall be
38 equipped with an eight-light warning system, showing two red
39 flashing stop signals and two amber flashing warning signals on the
40 front and rear of the bus, and a stop semaphore. The commissioner
41 may adopt standards for an eight-light warning system and standards
42 and specifications for the construction of school buses and for
43 equipment to be maintained on school buses consistent with the
44 provisions of sections 14-275 to 14-281, inclusive. Both public and
45 private owners of school buses shall maintain a record of such kinds of
46 repairs made to such buses as the commissioner may require and such
47 work record shall be available at all times to the commissioner and the
48 commissioner's designated assistants. All such maintenance records
49 shall be retained for a period of two years. Each school bus shall be
50 equipped with emergency lighting equipment as provided by section
51 14-97a, with a defrosting device as provided by section 14-97, with a

52 system of mirrors as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations Title
53 49, Section 571.111, as amended, or with an outside mirror as provided
54 by section 14-99 and a system of crossover mirrors designed and
55 mounted so as to give the driver a view of the road from the front
56 bumper forward to a point where direct observation is possible and
57 along the left and right sides of the bus, with a signalling device as
58 provided by section 14-101, and with chain nonskid devices for
59 immediate use on at least one outside or inside rear tire on each side or
60 tires designed to prevent skidding on all rear wheels when weather
61 and highway conditions require such use. Commencing February 1,
62 1974, each new school bus with a vehicle air brake system shall be so
63 equipped that the brake system is operated from a separate air
64 reservoir tank other than the air reservoir tank used to operate any
65 other compressed air or vacuum operated devices with which the
66 school bus may be equipped. The seating requirements of section 14-
67 273 shall be observed. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-98,
68 school buses may be equipped with tires incorporating a metal
69 nonskid device during the period from October fifteenth to April
70 thirtieth, inclusive.

71 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-164c, as amended,
72 (1) any new school bus purchased on or after January 1, 2003, shall be
73 equipped with particle traps and catalytic converters and shall be
74 powered by diesel fuel with a sulfur content of no more than 15 parts
75 per million, and (2) on or after January 1, 2004, each school bus shall be
76 equipped with particle traps and catalytic converters and shall be
77 powered by diesel fuel with a sulfur content of no more than 15 parts
78 per million.

79 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall,
80 for a first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction, and for
81 each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than one hundred
82 dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.

83 Sec. 2. Section 14-277 of the general statutes is repealed and the

84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

85 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c),
86 inclusive, of section 14-242, the operator of any school bus, when about
87 to bring his bus to a stop to receive or discharge passengers, shall
88 signal his intention to do so by causing the flashing signal lights to be
89 displayed for not less than fifty feet before he brings the bus to a stop
90 so as to be clearly visible to the operator of any oncoming or
91 overtaking vehicle or motor vehicle, except that the operator of any
92 school bus equipped with amber flashing signal lights shall signal such
93 intention by causing the amber flashing signal lights to be displayed
94 for not less than one hundred feet before he brings the bus to a stop.
95 The operator of any school bus, having brought his vehicle to a stop,
96 shall not open the door to receive or discharge passengers until all
97 vehicles approaching from the front and overtaking from the rear have
98 stopped in compliance with the indicated signal to stop. The operator
99 of any school bus equipped with amber flashing signal lights and a
100 stop semaphore, having brought his vehicle to a stop, shall cause the
101 red flashing signal lights to be displayed and the stop semaphore to be
102 extended and shall not open the door until all vehicles approaching
103 from the front and overtaking from the rear have stopped in
104 compliance with the indicated signal to stop. After all passengers are
105 safely aboard or discharged and safely off the highway, the operator
106 shall extinguish the stop lights and the operator of any school bus
107 equipped with a stop semaphore shall withdraw the stop semaphore.
108 He may then permit all standing traffic to pass before resuming
109 forward progress. While such school bus is in motion the doors shall
110 remain closed at all times and all passengers shall be required to
111 remain seated. No operator of any school bus shall stop his vehicle on
112 the main traveled portion of the highway to receive or discharge
113 passengers when existing highway shoulders or adequate highway
114 width is available or where curbs, bus stops or special facilities exist.
115 No such operator may receive or discharge any passenger on a
116 highway with separate roadways unless (1) a boarding passenger may
117 reach the bus stop and a discharged passenger may reach his residence

118 or other destination without crossing such highway, or (2) he stops the
119 bus at a location having a traffic control signal or crossing guard.

120 (b) The operator of any school bus shall not operate the engine of
121 any school bus for more than three consecutive minutes when the
122 school bus is not in motion except (1) when the school bus is forced to
123 remain motionless because of traffic conditions or mechanical
124 difficulties over which the operator has no control, (2) when it is
125 necessary to operate heating, cooling or auxiliary equipment installed
126 on the school bus when such equipment is necessary to accomplish the
127 intended use of the school bus, including, but not limited to, the
128 operation of safety equipment, (3) when the outdoor temperature is
129 below twenty degrees Fahrenheit, (4) when it is necessary to maintain
130 a safe temperature for students with special needs, or (5) when the
131 school bus is being repaired.

132 (c) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a
133 first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction and for each
134 subsequent offense shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor
135 more than five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2002
Sec. 2	October 1, 2002

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit the idling of school buses except in certain situations and to require any new school bus purchased on or after January 1, 2003, and any school bus after January 1, 2004, to be equipped with particle traps and catalytic converters and to be powered by diesel fuel with a sulfur content of no more than 15 parts per million.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]