



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 557

February Session, 2010

Substitute House Bill No. 5272

House of Representatives, April 15, 2010

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING EVIDENCE OF FAILURE TO STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-279 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

3 (a) The operator of any vehicle, motor vehicle, or authorized
4 emergency vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, shall immediately bring
5 such vehicle to a stop not less than ten feet from the front when
6 approaching and not less than ten feet from the rear when overtaking
7 or following any registered school bus on any highway or private road
8 or in any parking area or on any school property when such bus is
9 displaying flashing red signal lights, except at the specific direction of
10 a traffic officer. Vehicles so stopped for a school bus shall not proceed
11 until such bus no longer displays flashing red signal lights. At the
12 intersection of two or more highways vehicular turns toward a school
13 bus receiving or discharging passengers are prohibited. The operator
14 of a vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop

15 upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on a different roadway.

16 (b) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this
17 section shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than
18 five hundred dollars for the first offense and for each subsequent
19 offense, not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand
20 dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both.

21 (c) Upon receipt of a written report from any school bus operator
22 specifying the [license plate] registration number, color and type of
23 any vehicle observed by such operator or recorded by a camera affixed
24 to such school bus violating any provision of subsection (a) of this
25 section and the date, approximate time and location of such violation,
26 a police officer shall issue a written warning or a summons to the
27 owner of any such vehicle. A photographic or digital image that clearly
28 shows the registration number of a vehicle violating any provision of
29 subsection (a) of this section shall be sufficient proof of the registration
30 number of such vehicle for purposes of subsection (b) of section 14-107.

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | July 1, 2010 | 14-279 |

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 11 \$ | FY 12 \$ |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Judicial Department | TF - Revenue Gain | Less than 50,000 | Less than 50,000 |

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 11 \$ | FY 12 \$ |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Various Municipalities | Revenue Gain | Less than 50,000 | Less than 50,000 |

Explanation

By facilitating the potential imposition of fines for passing a stopped school bus, the bill could generate a revenue gain for the state and municipalities that is estimated to be less than \$50,000 annually.

The fine for passing a standing school bus, which is unchanged by the bill, is \$460 in total. The total includes: (1) a \$300 base fine (deposited into the Transportation Fund); (2) a \$150 surcharge (deposited into the Transportation Fund); and (3) a \$10 surcharge remitted to the municipality in which the violation occurred. In 2008, there were 309 fines imposed generating total revenues of \$132,000.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would remain constant into the future since fine amounts are set by statute.

Sources: Quarterly Reports of the Judicial Department

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5272

AN ACT CONCERNING EVIDENCE OF FAILURE TO STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS.

SUMMARY:

By law, a police officer, upon receiving a written report from a school bus operator specifying certain vehicle information he or she observed, must issue a written warning or summons to the owner of a vehicle that violates the law prohibiting the passing of a school bus displaying flashing red signal lights. This bill allows the information in the report to be recorded by a camera affixed to the school bus rather than just observed by the operator. By law and under the bill, the report must include the vehicle registration number, color, and type.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2010

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 42 Nay 0 (03/29/2010)