



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5032

LCO No. 514

00514_____TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

**AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF SCHOOL BUS
TRANSPORTATION.**

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 Section 14-275 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 from passage*):

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] shall also
13 conduct random, unannounced inspections of any registered school
14 bus. Any school bus that transports individuals in wheelchairs shall
15 meet the requirements of subsection (e) of section 14-100a in order to
16 pass inspection. The provisions of said sections requiring other

17 vehicles to stop at the signal of the operator of a registered school bus
18 shall not apply to a signal by the operator of any vehicle not registered
19 as a school bus and not complying with all requirements for such
20 registration.

21 (b) Each school bus shall be painted a uniform yellow color known
22 as "National School Bus Glossy Yellow", except for the fenders and
23 trim which may be painted black and the roof which may be painted
24 white, and shall have conspicuously painted on the rear and on the
25 front thereof, in black lettering of a size to be determined by the
26 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the words "School Bus-Stop on
27 Signal", except that each school bus equipped with an eight-light
28 warning system shall have the words "School Bus" painted on the rear
29 and on the front thereof in such lettering. The sides of such vehicles
30 may be inscribed with the words "School Bus", the school name or such
31 other legend or device as may be necessary for purposes of
32 identification or safety. Each school bus shall have conspicuously
33 painted on the rear and sides of such vehicles, in black lettering of a
34 size to be determined by the commissioner, the name of the school bus
35 company, the school bus company's telephone number, [and] the
36 school bus number, and commencing January 1, 2011, the telephone
37 number at the Department of Motor Vehicles where unsafe or illegal
38 operation of a school bus may be reported. The department shall notify
39 the appropriate school bus company of such report and shall
40 investigate each such report.

41 (c) Each school bus shall be equipped with special automatic,
42 electrically-operated flashing stop signals, which shall be independent
43 and separate from the braking, stop and tail lights of standard
44 equipment. Such flashing lights may include automatic traffic
45 signalling devices showing red and amber lights and shall be so
46 located that adequate warning will be afforded to both oncoming and
47 overtaking traffic, except that each school bus manufactured on and
48 after October 1, 1984, and registered for use in this state shall be
49 equipped with an eight-light warning system, showing two red

50 flashing stop signals and two amber flashing warning signals on the
51 front and rear of the bus, and a stop semaphore. The commissioner
52 may adopt standards for an eight-light warning system and standards
53 and specifications for the construction of school buses and for
54 equipment to be maintained on school buses consistent with the
55 provisions of sections 14-275 to 14-281, inclusive. Both public and
56 private owners of school buses shall maintain a record of such kinds of
57 repairs made to such buses as the commissioner may require and such
58 work record shall be available at all times to the commissioner and the
59 commissioner's designated assistants. All such maintenance records
60 shall be retained for a period of two years. Each school bus shall be
61 equipped with emergency lighting equipment as provided by section
62 14-97a, with a defrosting device as provided by section 14-97, with a
63 system of mirrors as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations Title
64 49, Section 571.111, as amended, or with an outside mirror as provided
65 by section 14-99 and a system of crossover mirrors designed and
66 mounted so as to give the driver a view of the road from the front
67 bumper forward to a point where direct observation is possible and
68 along the left and right sides of the bus, with a signalling device as
69 provided by section 14-101, and with chain nonskid devices for
70 immediate use on at least one outside or inside rear tire on each side or
71 tires designed to prevent skidding on all rear wheels when weather
72 and highway conditions require such use. Commencing February 1,
73 1974, each new school bus with a vehicle air brake system shall be so
74 equipped that the brake system is operated from a separate air
75 reservoir tank other than the air reservoir tank used to operate any
76 other compressed air or vacuum operated devices with which the
77 school bus may be equipped. The seating requirements of section 14-
78 273 shall be observed. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-98,
79 school buses may be equipped with tires incorporating a metal
80 nonskid device during the period from October fifteenth to April
81 thirtieth, inclusive. Each school bus that is model year 2007 or newer
82 shall be equipped with a crossing control arm mounted on the right
83 end of the front bumper. The commissioner shall establish additional

84 standards and requirements for such devices in regulations adopted in
85 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

86 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a
87 first offense, [be deemed to have committed an infraction, and for each
88 subsequent offense shall] be fined not less than one hundred dollars
89 nor more than five hundred dollars, and for each subsequent offense,
90 shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one
91 thousand dollars.

92 Sec. 2. Section 14-275c of the general statutes is repealed and the
93 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

94 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles [may] shall, in accordance
95 with the provisions of chapter 54, make, alter or repeal regulations
96 governing the inspection, registration, operation and maintenance of
97 school buses and the licensing of the operators of such vehicles. Such
98 regulations shall incorporate the requirements of 49 CFR 383.123
99 regarding the qualifications of each applicant for an endorsement to
100 operate a school bus, issued in accordance with the provisions of
101 section 14-44.

102 (b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
103 the provisions of chapter 54, governing (1) the inspection, registration,
104 operation and maintenance of motor vehicles used by any carrier to
105 transport children requiring special education, and (2) the licensing of
106 operators of such vehicles. A person who has attained the age of
107 seventy shall be allowed to hold a license endorsement for the purpose
108 of operating a motor vehicle to transport children requiring special
109 education provided he meets the minimum physical requirements set
110 by the commissioner and agrees to submit to a physical examination at
111 least twice a year or when requested to do so by the superintendent of
112 the school system in which he intends to operate such vehicle.

113 (c) Any person who violates any provision of any regulation
114 adopted pursuant to this section shall, for a first offense, [be deemed to

115 have committed an infraction] be fined not less than one hundred
116 dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, and for each subsequent
117 offense shall be fined not less than [one hundred] five hundred dollars
118 nor more than [five hundred] one thousand dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	14-275
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	14-275c

Statement of Purpose:

To improve the safety of school bus transportation.

[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.]