

School Bus Idling Law

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Issue

This report summarizes Connecticut's school bus idling law.

Idling Restriction and Exemptions

State law prohibits school bus operators from idling the engines of stopped buses for more than three consecutive minutes, with certain exceptions ([CGS § 14-277\(b\)](#)).

A school bus operator is exempt from the restriction when:

1. traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties beyond the operator's control force the bus to be stopped;
2. idling is necessary to operate heating, cooling, or auxiliary equipment necessary to accomplish the intended use of the bus, such as safety equipment;
3. the outdoor temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit;
4. idling is necessary to maintain a safe temperature for students with special needs;
5. the bus is being repaired; or
6. the bus is receiving or discharging passengers on a public highway or public road.

Penalties

A first offense of the idling law is an infraction that currently carries a total fine of \$117 ([Superior Court Mail-In Violations and Infractions Schedule](#), effective October 1, 2017), and subsequent violations are punishable by fines of between \$100 and \$500 ([CGS § 14-277\(c\)](#)).

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