
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5327

AN ACT REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES CONCERNING TOWING OCCUPIED VEHICLES, THE IMPROPER USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND SCHOOL BUSES.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits a licensed wrecker from knowingly allowing any person to occupy a vehicle while it is being towed (§ 1). Unrelatedly, it increases the penalties, from an infraction to a class D misdemeanor, for (1) using a registration or driver's license that was issued to someone else or (2) using a registration on a vehicle other than the one for which the registration was issued (§ 2). (Class D misdemeanors are punishable by a fine up to \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both.)

The bill also requires the DMV commissioner, by September 1, 2024, to review, and amend or revise if needed, any regulation, internal procedure or policy, or other guidance provided to school bus owners and operators on operating and inspecting school buses (§ 3). Specifically, he must do so to ensure that they (1) promote adherence to the state's anti-idling law for school buses and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) air quality regulations related to idling and (2) do not explicitly or implicitly require a school bus to idle for more than three minutes during the performance of a daily vehicle inspection. (The anti-idling law generally prohibits school bus operators from idling their buses for more than three consecutive minutes and DEEP regulations similarly prohibit this for all vehicles; however, both provide for certain exceptions.)

The bill additionally requires the commissioner, by September 1, 2024, to (1) provide guidance to school bus owners and operators identifying which aspects of a daily vehicle inspection can be performed with the engine off and (2) post the guidance on DMV's website.

Lastly, the bill makes a technical change (§ 4).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024, except the school bus idling provisions are effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/20/2024)