

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 470

H. P. 336

House of Representatives, January 31, 1967

Referred to Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Shute of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Revising the Law Relating to School Buses.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 29, § 2011, repealed and replaced. Section 2011 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2011. School buses; markings; stop at railroad tracks

The term "school bus" includes every motor vehicle that complies with the color and identification requirements set forth in the most recent edition of "Minimum Standards for School Buses" and is used to transport children to or from school or in connection with school activities, but not including buses operated by a motor carrier having a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Public Utilities Commission under Title 35, Sections 1501 to 1518, which comply with the requirements of the commission.

Every bus used for the transportation of school children shall bear upon the front and rear thereof plainly visible signs containing the words "SCHOOL BUS" in letters not less than 8 inches in height, and in addition shall be equipped with visual signals as approved by the Secretary of State, which shall be actuated by the driver of said school bus whenever, but only whenever, such vehicle is stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children.

When a school bus is being operated upon a highway for purposes other than the actual transportation of children either to or from school, all markings thereon indicating "SCHOOL BUS" shall be covered or concealed.

All school buses when carrying children shall come to a full stop before crossing any railroad track or tracks, such stop to be made at a point not more than 50 feet and not less than 10 feet from the nearest rail. The driver thereof shall take such steps as are necessary to ascertain beyond reasonable doubt that no train, engine or car is approaching the crossing before he shall proceed to drive such bus across the track or tracks. The operator of any school bus failing to so stop shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$200; and his driver's license, or right to operate a motor vehicle or right to obtain an operator's license shall be revoked by the Secretary of State for a period of not less than 2 years.

Notwithstanding section 2122, every school bus as defined in this section shall be submitted to an official inspection station during the months of August and February for the purpose of complying with section 2122, concerning adjustment and sufficiency of the required equipment. This inspection shall be conducted by certain specified official inspection stations.

Notwithstanding section 2125, the fee for such inspection shall be \$2.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 29, § 2014, repealed and replaced. Section 2014 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2014. Overtaking and passing school buses

The driver of a vehicle upon a highway, upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus which has stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children, shall stop the vehicle before reaching such school bus when there is in operation on said school bus a visual signal as approved by the Secretary of State and said driver shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion or is signaled by the school bus driver to proceed or the visual signals are no longer actuated.

The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on a different roadway or when upon a limited-access highway and the school bus is stopped in a loading zone which is a part of or adjacent to such highway and where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.