

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2117

H. P. 1930 House of Representatives, January 27, 1976
Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Peterson of Caribou.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

**AN ACT to Amend the Definition of "School Bus" to Include School Buses
Rented from School Administrative Units by Nonprofit Organizations in
Order to Transport Children.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become
effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, many nonprofit organizations will rent school buses during the
coming summer to transport children to and from their activities; and

Whereas, some law enforcement officers have indicated that those rented
buses may not be operated as school buses but rather must be operated as
ordinary vehicles; and

Whereas, operating these buses as ordinary vehicles and not as school
buses significantly increases the traffic hazards to the children being trans-
ported; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emer-
gency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the fol-
lowing legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

29 MRSA § 2011, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 780, § 4, is amended by
adding at the end the following:

The term "school bus" shall also include every motor vehicle owned or leased by a school administrative unit and principally used for the purposes set forth in the first sentence of this subsection when that motor vehicle is leased from that school administrative unit by a nonprofit corporation or association in order to transport minors to and from activities of that nonprofit corporation or association.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Currently when school buses are rented by nonprofit organizations, such as the YMCA, for transporting children, those organizations must cover up the school bus markings and are not permitted to operate as a school bus. As a result, the discharge of passengers is significantly more hazardous than normal. This bill permits school buses used by nonprofit corporations or associations for transporting children to and from their activities to use all the safety features and statutes pertaining to school buses in order to protect the children they are transporting.