

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-980)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1996, L.D. 2177, Bill, "AN ACT Concerning Transit District Buses Used for Elementary Pupil Transportation."

Amend said Bill by inserting after the 4th paragraph of the emergency preamble the following:

'Whereas, this legislation will clarify legislative purpose by permitting city transit buses used to transport elementary students to carry, in unusual circumstances, a number of elementary students 20% greater than the number which they are normally permitted to carry; and'

Further amend said Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §2017, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 29, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The Chief of the State Police, or his designee, may, by regulation, grant a variance from the requirements of the first paragraph of this section for buses of any transit district which are used to transport pupils and may, by regulation, provide for a staggered schedule of inspections for those buses.

Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §2020, as/^{last}repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c.224, is amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read:

In the case of a school bus operated by a transit district

which is transporting elementary school students only, the minimum seating space for the students may be reduced by not more than 20%.

Any transit district transporting students of a school administrative unit under this section shall at least annually, and in consultation with that school administrative unit, develop a routing system for transit district buses used to transport those students. In developing this system for buses transporting elementary students, the district shall determine bus capacity using the standard minimum seating space required for elementary students, and not the reduced minimum seating space permitted by the preceding paragraph.

Statement of Fact

This amendment clarifies the provisions of the bill relating to the number of elementary students which a city transit bus used to transport elementary students may carry. It further requires any transit district transporting school children to develop at least annually, and in consultation with the appropriate school administrative unit, a routing system for transit district buses used to transport students. In addition, it requires that the transit district, in developing this system, shall figure school bus capacity for elementary students using

the standard minimum space requirement and not the reduced minimum space which this proposed legislation authorizes in certain circumstances.

Also, at present, transit district buses used to transport pupils are inspected at the same time during which all other school buses are inspected, the months of February and August. While these inspection times are suitable for the inspection of school buses of school administrative units, these requirements have meant that transit districts must pay a lot of overtime during February and August in order to accomplish needed repairs during those months.

This amendment will permit the State Police to stagger the inspection schedule for transit district buses used to transport school pupils and thus will eliminate an unnecessary repair crunch.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Transportation.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
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