

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1945

S.P. 716 In Senate, January 4, 1988
Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative
Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 31,
1987. Referred to the Committee on Transportation and 1400
ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DOW of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Representative WEYMOUTH of West Gardiner.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

1 AN ACT Concerning the Use of Flashing Lights on
2 School Buses.
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §2019, sub-§2, as amended by PL
7 1979, c. 101, is further amended to read:

8 2. Stopping. The operator of a vehicle on a way
9 or on school property, upon meeting or overtaking a

1 school bus from either direction which has stopped,
2 with its red lights flashing, on the way to receive or
3 discharge ~~school children~~ passengers, shall stop
4 the vehicle before reaching the school bus and the
5 operator shall not proceed until the school bus
6 resumes motion or until signaled by the school bus
7 operator to proceed.

8 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §2019, sub-§4, as repealed and
9 replaced by PL 1977, c. 78, §168, is amended to read:

10 4. Use of flashing red lights restricted. A
11 school bus operator shall not use the system of
12 flashing lights on a school bus for any purpose other
13 than controlling traffic in connection with the
14 stopping of that bus for the purpose of receiving or
15 discharging ~~school children~~ passengers.

16 STATEMENT OF FACT

17 This bill clarifies the law concerning the use of
18 flashing lights on a school bus which is stopped to
19 receive or discharge passengers. The current
20 reference to school children is replaced by passengers
21 in this bill in order to allow the use of the lights
22 whenever passengers are boarding or alighting, since
23 arguably, inclusion of the term "school children"
24 might restrict the use of this safety precaution only
25 when the bus is used to transport children to and from
26 school.

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