



120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1485

H.P. 1116

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Pupil Transportation.

Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 204. Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative RICHARD of Madison. Cosponsored by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot and Representatives: DESMOND of Mapleton, WESTON of Montville, Senator: SMALL of Sagadahoc.

	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2301, sub-§§2 and 5, as enacted by PL 1993,
4	c. 683, Pt. A, $\S2$ and affected by Pt. B, $\S5$, are amended to read:
6	2. Private school activity bus. "Private school activity bus" means a privately owned meter-vehicle school bus with a
8	carrying capacity of 10 to 15 passengers that is not operated with public funds and that is used by a private school to
10	transport students other than to and from home and school.
12	5. School bus. "School bus" means a motor vehicle with a carrying capacity of 10 or more passengers used to transport
14	children as approved by school authorities to and from school, school activities, municipally operated activities or activities
16	of a nonprofit corporation or association. It does not include a
18	private motor vehicle used to transport members of the owner's household,-of-a-private-school-activity-bus.
20	Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2302, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:
22	G. May Must be equipped with a system of stop arms in
24	compliance with 49 Code of Federal Regulations, 571.131 (2000), to be operated only with the red signal lights; and
26	Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2302, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1993, c.
28	683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is repealed.
30	Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2305, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:
32	4. Fire extinguisher. A school bus must have at least one
34	dry chemical fire extinguisher:
36	A. Of at least 2-1/2-pound <u>a 5-pound</u> capacity;
38	B. Mounted in <u>an</u> automotive type manufacturer's extinguisher bracket;
40	C. Located in the operator's compartment in full view of
42	and readily accessible to the operator; and
44	D. Having an Underwriters' Laboratories rating of not less than 10-B: C $_{\star}$; and
46	E. That must be inspected monthly and have a record tag
48	attached indicating the date of the last inspection and the initials of the inspector.

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

Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §2305, sub-§5 is enacted to read: 2 5. School bus construction. A motor vehicle operated as a 4 school bus must be constructed to meet or exceed all relevant Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards as defined in 49 United 6 States Code, Chapter 301, Subchapter II. 8 Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §2307, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 10 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read: 12 4. Fee. The operator of an official school bus inspection station is entitled to a fee of \$8 \$20 for each school bus inspected. The fee does not include labor or material used in 14correction of faults. 16 Sec. 7. Application. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act apply to all vehicles manufactured after the effective date of this Act. 18 20 Sec. 8. Effective date. Section 1 of this Act takes effect 6 months following the effective date of this Act. 22 **SUMMARY** 24 26 This bill amends the motor vehicle laws to clarify that any motor vehicle carrying more than 10 passengers is classified as a school bus and must meet all the federal and state safety, 28 inspection, construction, lighting, marking and driver licensure requirements of a school bus. The bill also increases the fee to 30 school bus inspection stations.