

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - N I N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1095

H. P. 2059

House of Representatives, March 24, 1939.

Reported by Mr. Paul from Committee on Motor Vehicles and laid on table to be printed under Joint Rules.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to School Busses.

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

Sec. 1. Defined. Any vehicle used to convey children to or from school that has a seating capacity of 10 or more shall be classed as a school bus. No vehicle shall be used to convey children to and from school regardless of the number of children to be conveyed unless said vehicle is designed for the purpose of carrying passengers.

Sec. 2. Construction and equipment. Every school bus, except private passenger vehicles used as school busses, shall after July 31, 1940 be constructed and equipped as follows:

1. There shall be but 1 compartment.
2. A door or doors at least 30 inches wide and 48 inches high, the lower panels of which shall be composed of safety glass, shall be placed at the front, right-hand side opposite the driver.
3. The front door or doors shall be under the control of and operated by the driver.
4. There shall be an emergency door in the rear, at least 20 inches wide and 48 inches high, provided with an easily operated safety-catch not controlled from the driver's seat but protected from accidental release.

5. There shall be ample windows on both sides.
6. It shall be heated either with hot water radiator heaters or hot air heaters. The hot air heaters to be iron pipes with all screw connections and guarded by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch meshing wire, $\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the heating element which is located in the bus body.
7. There shall be ample seating facilities.
8. The fuel tank shall be located, filled, drained, and vented outside the bus body.
9. Bumpers both front and rear shall be fastened directly to the chassis.

Sec. 3. Signs. Every school bus shall bear, thereon, both front and rear, a sign with the words "School Bus" in black letters at least 6 inches high on an orange background and placed at a level of approximately 5 feet from the ground. Other conveyances used for carrying children shall be provided with adequate signs both front and rear. Such signs shall be removed or covered when the vehicle is not in use as a school bus.

Sec. 4. Front entrance used. All pupils shall be received and discharged from the front, right-hand entrance of every school bus, and if necessary for said pupils to cross the highway, they shall be required by the driver to pass in front of the bus and stop and look in both directions before so crossing and the driver shall not start the vehicle until he has seen that such pupils have safely crossed the highway.

Sec. 5. Speed. No motor vehicle used to carry children to or from school for hire, shall be operated at a speed in excess of 35 miles per hour. Any violation of this section, by a driver, shall be deemed sufficient cause for cancelling his contract.

Sec. 6. Overtaking and passing school bus. The driver of a vehicle upon a highway outside of a business or residence district upon meeting or overtaking any school bus which has stopped on the highway shall come to a complete stop and then may proceed with due caution for the safety of any children and in no event in excess of 15 miles per hour in passing such school bus.

Sec. 7. Applicability. The provisions of sections 1 to 7, inclusive, shall apply to any and all types of school districts where children are transported to and from public schools.