

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT OF H. P. 1539—L. D. 831

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1109**

H. P. 1894

House of Representatives, April 4, 1941.

Reported by Mr. Conant from the Committee on Motor Vehicles and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-ONE

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**AN ACT to Encourage Safety on School Buses.**

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

**Sec. 1. Term "school bus" defined.** The term "school bus" includes all motor vehicles while used for the transportation of children to and from school for hire.

**Sec. 2. Descriptive sign to be attached.** All school buses, as defined in section 1 shall bear upon the front and rear thereof a plainly visible sign "school bus" in letters not less than 4 inches in height which can be removed or covered when the vehicle is not in use as a school bus; but this provision shall not apply to public buses while transporting school children together with regular passengers. Such standard "descriptive signs" shall be furnished at cost by the department of education.

**Sec. 3. Standards for school buses.** No municipality and no person or corporation employed by a municipality to convey children to and from school may use a conveyance which provides less than one linear foot of seating space for each such child.

All motor vehicles used as school buses, except the pleasure car type, so-called, shall be equipped with 2 doors, one on the right side near the front

of the bus to be used for all ordinary exits and entrances; the other at the rear to be equipped with a spring lock on the inside to be used only in case of emergency.

Any such motor vehicle shall be so constructed that the operator has access to the passenger compartment without leaving the vehicle, and that the exhaust pipe shall extend beyond the external rear of the body of the bus, but not beyond the bumper, and shall be entirely outside of the body, and that the gasoline tank filler, vent, and drain openings shall be outside of the bus body.

All school buses as defined in section 1 shall be equipped with a fire extinguisher of a type and size approved by the laboratories of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

**Sec. 4. Buses to stop before crossing railroad track.** All school buses when conveying children shall come to a full stop before crossing any railroad track.