

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 1137

H. P. 1789

House of Representatives, March 1, 1949

Referred to the Committee on Motor Vehicles sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Robbins of Houlton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to School Buses.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 19, § 105-A, additional. Chapter 19 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 105-A, to read as follows:

‘Sec. 105-A. **Overtaking and passing school bus.** The driver of a vehicle outside of a business or residential district upon meeting or overtaking any school bus which has stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children shall stop the vehicle before reaching such school bus and shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until signalled by the driver to proceed.

The driver of a vehicle on a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on a different roadway or when on a limited or controlled access highway and the school bus is stopped in a loading zone which is a part of or adjacent to such highway and where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.’

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 37, § 9, amended. Section 9 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 9. Term “school bus” defined; descriptive sign to be attached; standards for school buses; buses to stop before crossing railroad track. The term “school bus” includes all motor vehicles while used for the transportation of children to and from school for hire.

All school buses, with carrying capacity of 10 or more pupils, shall be painted as follows:

I. School bus bodies, including hood, cowl, and roof shall be painted a uniform color, National School Bus Chrome, according to specifications of the National Bureau of Standards, with the exception of front fenders and running board.

II. The front fenders shall be black, and the body trim, if used, shall be of the same color.

III. School bus bodies shall bear the words “SCHOOL BUS” in black letters at least 8 inches high on both the front and rear of the body or on signs attached thereto.

IV. “STOP ON SIGNAL” shall be painted on the rear of the bus. When used for any purpose other than transportation of pupils all school signs shall be covered or concealed.

All school buses, ~~as above defined~~, with carrying capacity of less than 10 pupils, shall bear upon the front and rear thereof a plainly visible sign “school bus” in letters not less than 4 inches in height but preferably 8” in height which ~~can~~ shall 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.~~

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 **protected** 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 **of the bus**, and that the gasoline tank filler, vent and drain openings shall be outside of the bus body.

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

All school buses with carrying capacity of 10 or more pupils shall be equipped with 2 red rear and 2 red or amber front lights, located on the upper half of the vehicle, preferably the top, which flash alternately 60 to 120 times per minute during loading and unloading pupils on the highway.

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

Any school bus which does not comply with the foregoing provisions or which does not comply with reasonable safety standards shall be removed from service until properly equipped.'