

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1254

To require the Secretary of Transportation to review and report on certain laws, safety measures, and technologies relating to the illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2019

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to review and report on certain laws, safety measures, and technologies relating to the illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stop for School Buses
5 Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
 2 means the Department of Transportation.

3 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 4 the Secretary of Transportation.

5 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF LAWS, SAFETY MEASURES, AND TECH-**
 6 **NOLOGIES.**

7 (a) REVIEW OF ILLEGAL PASSING LAWS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
 9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 10 shall prepare a report that—

11 (A) identifies and describes all illegal pass-
 12 ing laws in each State relating to school buses,
 13 including—

14 (i) the level of enforcement of those
 15 laws;

16 (ii) the penalties associated with those
 17 laws;

18 (iii) any issues relating to the enforce-
 19 ment of those laws; and

20 (iv) the effectiveness of those laws;

21 (B) reviews existing State laws that may
 22 inhibit the effectiveness of safety counter-
 23 measures in school bus loading zones, such as—

24 (i) laws that require the face of a
 25 driver to be visible in an image captured

1 by a camera if enforcement action is to be
2 taken based on that image;

3 (ii) laws that may reduce stop-arm
4 camera effectiveness;

5 (iii) the need for a law enforcement
6 officer to witness an event for enforcement
7 action to be taken; and

8 (iv) the lack of primary enforcement
9 for texting and driving;

10 (C) evaluates the methods used by each
11 State to review, document, and report to law
12 enforcement school bus stop-arm violations; and

13 (D) recommends best practices relating to
14 the most effective approaches to address the il-
15 legal passing of school buses.

16 (2) PUBLICATION.—The report under para-
17 graph (1) shall be made publicly available on the
18 website of the Department.

19 (b) PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGING CAMPAIGN.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
22 shall establish and implement a public safety mes-
23 saging campaign that uses public safety media mes-
24 sages, posters, digital media messages, and other
25 media messages distributed to States, State depart-

1 ments of motor vehicles, schools, and other public
2 outlets—

3 (A) to highlight the importance of address-
4 ing the illegal passing of school buses; and

5 (B) to educate students and the public on
6 the safe loading and unloading of schools buses.

7 (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out para-
8 graph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

9 (A) representatives of the school bus indus-
10 try from the public and private sectors; and

11 (B) States.

12 (3) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall periodically
13 update the materials used in the campaign under
14 paragraph (1).

15 (c) REVIEW OF TECHNOLOGIES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of various
19 technologies for enhancing school bus safety, includ-
20 ing technologies such as—

21 (A) cameras;

22 (B) audible warning systems; and

23 (C) enhanced lighting.

24 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The review under para-
25 graph (1)—

1 (A) shall include—

2 (i) an evaluation of—

3 (I) the costs of acquiring and op-
4 erating new equipment; and

5 (II) the potential impact of that
6 equipment on overall school bus rider-
7 ship;

8 (ii) an evaluation of the impact of ad-
9 vanced technologies on school bus loading
10 zone safety; and

11 (iii) an evaluation of the effectiveness
12 of school bus lighting systems at clearly
13 communicating to surrounding drivers the
14 appropriate actions those drivers should
15 take; and

16 (B) may include—

17 (i) an evaluation of any technological
18 solutions that may enhance school bus
19 safety outside of the school bus loading
20 zone; and

21 (ii) a pilot program to test any tech-
22 nologies in school bus service.

23 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the re-
24 view under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall con-
25 sult with—

1 (A) manufacturers of school buses;

2 (B) manufacturers of various technologies
3 that may enhance school bus safety; and

4 (C) school bus industry representatives.

5 (4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
6 the findings of the review under paragraph (1) pub-
7 licly available on the website of the Department.

8 (d) REVIEW OF DRIVER EDUCATION MATERIALS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 shall—

12 (A) review driver education materials in all
13 States to determine whether and how illegal
14 passing of school buses is addressed in those
15 driver education materials, including—

16 (i) manuals;

17 (ii) testing for noncommercial driver's
18 licenses; and

19 (iii) road tests; and

20 (B) make recommendations on how States
21 can improve education about the illegal passing
22 of school buses, particularly for new drivers.

23 (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out para-
24 graph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

25 (A) school bus industry representatives;

1 (B) States;

2 (C) the chief executive officer of the de-
3 partment of transportation of each State; and

4 (D) other appropriate motor vehicle ex-
5 perts.

6 (3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
7 the findings of the review under paragraph (1) pub-
8 licly available on the website of the Department.

9 (e) REVIEW OF OTHER SAFETY ISSUES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 shall research and prepare a report on the connec-
13 tions between the illegal passing of school buses and
14 other safety issues, including issues such as—

15 (A) distracted driving;

16 (B) morning darkness;

17 (C) illumination and reach of vehicle head-
18 lights;

19 (D) speed limits; and

20 (E) the locations of school bus stops in
21 rural areas.

22 (2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
23 the report under paragraph (1) publicly available on
24 the website of the Department.

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