

LEGISLATIVE BILL 347

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1987

Introduced by Hartnett, 45; Beyer, 3

AN ACT relating to school buses; to amend section 39-660, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943; to permit the passing of parked school buses as prescribed; to provide for rules and regulations; and to repeal the original section.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 39-660, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

39-660. (1) The driver of any motor vehicle upon meeting or overtaking, from the front or rear, any school bus on which the stop warning signal lights are flashing shall reduce the speed of such vehicle to not more than twenty-five miles per hour and shall bring such vehicle to a complete stop when the school bus stop signal arm is extended and shall remain stopped until the stop signal arm is retracted and the school bus resumes motion or until signaled by the bus driver to proceed. This section shall not apply to approaching traffic in the opposite direction on a dual highway divided by a median strip or to approaching traffic when there is displayed a sign as provided in subsection (7) of this section, which sign directs traffic to proceed. Any person violating ~~the provisions of~~ this subsection shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor.

(2) The Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, the driver of any school bus used for the transportation of school children, when stopping to receive or discharge pupils, shall turn on flashing stop warning signal lights at a distance of not less than three hundred feet when inside the corporate limits of any town or city and not less than five hundred feet nor more than one thousand feet in any area outside the corporate limits of any town or city from the point where such pupils are to be received or discharged from the bus. At the point of receiving or discharging pupils the driver shall bring the bus to a stop and extend a stop signal arm. After receiving or discharging pupils, the bus driver shall turn off the flashing stop warning signal lights, retract the stop

signal arm, and then proceed on the route. No school bus shall stop to load or unload pupils unless there is at least four hundred feet of clear vision in each direction.

(3) All pupils shall be received and discharged from the right front entrance of every school bus. ~~If and, if~~ such pupils must cross a highway, the driver shall instruct such pupils to cross in front of the bus and the driver shall keep such school bus halted with stop warning signal lights flashing and the stop signal arm extended until such pupils have reached the opposite side of such roadway.

(4) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on a different roadway or when upon a freeway and such 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.

(5) Every bus used for the transportation of school children shall bear upon the front and rear thereof plainly visible signs containing the words school bus in letters not less than eight inches high.

(6) When a school bus is being operated upon a highway for purposes other than the actual transportation of children either to or from school, all markings thereon indicating school bus shall be covered or concealed. The stop signal arms and system of alternately flashing warning signal lights shall not be operable through the usual controls.

(7) When a school bus is (a) parked in a designated school bus loading area which is out of the flow of traffic and which is adjacent to a school site or (b) parked on a roadway which possesses more than one lane of traffic flowing in the same direction and which is adjacent to a school site, a school bus driver shall engage only the hazard warning flashing lights when receiving or discharging pupils if a school bus loading area warning sign is displayed. Such signs shall not be directly attached to any school bus but shall be free standing and placed at the rear of a parked school bus or line of parked school buses. No school district shall utilize a school bus loading area warning sign unless such sign complies with the requirements of section 2 of this act.

Sec. 2. The Department of Roads shall by rule and regulation adopt and promulgate uniform standards for school bus loading area warning signs. Such standards shall include requirements for the size.

material, construction, and required wording. No school district shall use a school bus loading area warning sign unless such sign complies with all rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the department. The cost of any sign shall be an obligation of the school district.

Sec. 3. That original section 39-660, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, is repealed.