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H.B. 83
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Brown and Schaffer

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Public Safety, with the advice of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to adopt rules for the construction and design of school bus camera equipment that provides an image or video of a motorist who violates the law that prohibits passing a stopped school bus that is loading or unloading passengers.
- Clarifies that school districts may install these cameras on a school bus solely for the purpose of capturing an image or video of a motor vehicle operator who violates the law on passing certain stopped school buses.
- Allows law enforcement to use this image or video (as long as it is sufficiently clear) to determine the identity of the offender.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Background

Under current law, a driver must stop for a school bus when both of the following apply:

- The driver meets or overtakes the school bus, from either direction; and
- The school bus is picking up or dropping off a school child, a child attending a Head Start program, or a person attending programs offered by a community board of mental health or a county board of developmental disabilities.

The driver must stop at least ten feet from the bus. The driver may not proceed until either the bus moves, or the bus driver signals the driver to proceed.¹

When a bus driver believes that a motorist has committed this offense (by failing to properly stop), the bus driver must report the license plate number and a general description of

¹ R.C. 4511.75(A) and (C), not in the bill.

the vehicle and motorist to a law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency must then attempt to determine the motorist's identity.²

School bus cameras

Current law neither specifically authorizes nor prohibits the use of cameras placed on a school bus to capture an image or video of a motorist who passes a stopped school bus that is loading or unloading passengers. But, there is a provision that states that certain traffic camera laws **do not** apply to traffic cameras placed on buses for this purpose. Thus, the Code recognizes that school bus operators might use these cameras.³

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety, with the advice of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to adopt rules relating to the construction and design of camera equipment that provides an image, images, or video solely for the purposes of capturing a motorist who passes such a stopped school bus.⁴

Additionally, when a bus driver believes that a motorist has committed the offense of failing to stop and contacts law enforcement, the bill allows the bus driver to corroborate the bus driver's information with an image, images, or video provided by the camera. The bill also allows the law enforcement agency to use that camera's image, images, or video to determine the identity of the violating motorist, but only if the image, images, or video are sufficiently clear.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-19-19

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² R.C. 4511.751.

³ R.C. 4511.0913, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 4511.76.

⁵ R.C. 4511.751.