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Synopsis of House Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the House Floor.)

S.B. 233 of the 135th General Assembly

House Transportation

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

As Passed by the Senate

As Reported by the House Transportation Committee

Penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus

No provision.

Increases the penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus that is loading or unloading passengers by setting required minimum fines, increasing the maximum fines, increasing the length of the driver's license suspension, and imposing higher penalties and points on a driver's license for repeat offenders.

No provision.

Requires all repeat offenders to attend and successfully complete a school bus safety course, developed by the Director of Public Safety, and authorizes first-time offenders to take the course to lower their fine and waive the imposition of points on their license (*R.C. 4510.036 and 4511.75*).

As Passed by the Senate	As Reported by the House Transportation Committee
School bus cameras	
No provision.	Authorizes the installation and use of school bus camera equipment that can capture an image, images, or video solely for purposes of recording violations of illegally passing a stopped school bus.
No provision.	Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS), with the advice of the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), to adopt rules governing school bus cameras, but prohibits the rules from authorizing the use of cameras for automated enforcement (<i>R.C. 4511.76</i>).
No provision.	Authorizes the use of an image, images, or video captured by a school bus camera to corroborate a school bus driver's report of a possible violation of illegally passing the driver's stopped school bus.
No provision.	Prohibits law enforcement from issuing a citation for illegally passing a stopped school bus solely based on an image, images, or video captured by a school bus camera (<i>R.C. 4511.751</i>).
School Bus Safety Fund and Grant Program	
No provision.	Creates the School Bus Safety Fund in the state treasury, consisting of money appropriated by the General Assembly and criminal fines collected for violations of passing a stopped school bus.
No provision.	Requires the Director of Education and Workforce to administer the fund and use the money in it to support efforts by DEW and DPS in educating the public regarding the laws governing school bus safety and to make grants to school districts to improve the safety features on school buses.

As Passed by the Senate	As Reported by the House Transportation Committee
No provision.	Requires the DEW to administer the School Bus Safety Grant Program (<i>R.C. 3327.18 and 3327.19</i>).
No provision.	Requires the transfer of \$25 million from the State Lottery Profits Education Fund to be used to immediately fund the School Bus Safety Grant Program and appropriates it for FY 2025 (<i>Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6</i>).
Public education on school bus safety	
No provision.	Requires DPS, especially through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), to require the display of graphics about school bus safety and the laws related to it at deputy registrar offices and on its websites.
No provision.	Also requires BMV to issue summaries of those laws and the process of reporting a violation of those laws to persons obtaining a license plate or driver's license.
No provision.	Generally, requires DPS, in conjunction with DEW, to educate the public regarding the laws pertaining to school bus safety (<i>R.C. 4503.03, 4511.751, and 4511.76</i>).
Miscellaneous and designations	
No provision.	Modifies provisions of current law that authorize the use of other vehicles in lieu of a school bus for the transportation of students to specify that the vehicle must have been originally designed and manufactured for not more than ten passengers (including the driver) (<i>R.C. 4511.76</i>).
No provision.	Designates the month of August as "School Bus Safety Month" (<i>R.C. 5.501</i>).

As Passed by the Senate	As Reported by the House Transportation Committee
No provision.	Names the bill the “School Bus Safety Act” (<i>Section 7</i>).