



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Margaret E. Marcy

S.B. 309

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. LaRose, Eklund, Hite, Obhof, Beagle, Lehner

BILL SUMMARY

- With regard to a report of a school bus operator alleging that a driver unlawfully passed the school bus while stopped, requires the school bus operator to include a description of the driver in the report only if it is possible, rather than requiring the description of the driver in all circumstances as under current law.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Stopping for a school bus

The bill amends the law governing reports made by school bus operators regarding drivers who unlawfully pass a stopped school bus. Under current law, drivers from both directions, when they come upon a stopped school bus that is either loading or unloading children, must stop at least ten feet from the front or the rear of the school bus.¹ When a school bus operator believes that a driver has violated this requirement, the school bus operator must report the incident to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area where the alleged incident occurred. The report must include the license plate number, a general description of the vehicle, and, in all circumstances, a general description of the driver. The bill, instead, requires the school bus operator to include the description of the driver in the report only if it is possible to do so.²

¹ R.C. 4511.75(A), not in the bill. When a highway has been divided into four or more traffic lanes, the traffic coming in the opposite direction of a stopped school bus is not required to stop.

² R.C. 4511.751.

Investigation and penalty

Under current law, upon receipt of a report from a school bus driver, a law enforcement agency must conduct an investigation to confirm the identity of the driver. If the identity is established, the reporting of the license plate number constitutes probable cause for the issuance of a citation for the violation. If the identity cannot be established, the owner of the vehicle, or lessee if the vehicle is rented or leased, is issued a warning. The penalty for a violation is a fine of up to \$500, a mandatory court appearance, and a possible class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license (up to one year).³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	04-07-16

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³ R.C. 4511.75(F), not in the bill.

