

## CHAPTER 144

## SCHOOL BUSES

S. F. 435

AN ACT to amend chapter three hundred twenty-one (321), Code 1946, motor vehicles and law of road and relating to school buses.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 SECTION 1. Section three hundred twenty-one point three hundred  
2 fifty-four (321.354), Code 1946, is hereby amended by striking the  
3 period (.) in line fifteen (15) and inserting a semicolon (;) and  
4 adding the following: "Provided however, school buses may stop on  
5 highway for receiving and discharging pupils and all other vehicles  
6 shall stop for school buses which are stopped to receive or discharge  
7 pupils, as provided in section three hundred twenty-one point three  
8 hundred seventy-two (321.372)."

1 SEC. 2. Section three hundred twenty-one point three hundred  
2 seventy-two (321.372), Code 1946, is hereby repealed and the fol-  
3 lowing enacted in lieu thereof:

4 "(1) The driver of any school bus used to transport children to  
5 and from a public school shall, when stopping to receive or discharge  
6 pupils, turn on the flashing stop warning signal lights at a distance  
7 of not less than three hundred (300) feet, nor more than five hundred  
8 (500) feet from the point where said pupils are to be received or dis-  
9 charged from the bus. At the point of receiving or discharging pupils  
10 the driver of the bus shall bring bus to a stop and extend the stop  
11 arm. After receiving or discharging pupils, the bus driver shall turn  
12 off the flashing stop warning lights, retract the stop arm and then  
13 proceed on the route. No school bus shall stop to load or unload  
14 pupils unless there is at least three hundred (300) feet of clear vision  
15 in each direction.

16 "(2) All pupils shall be received and discharged from the right  
17 front entrance of every school bus and if said pupils must cross the  
18 highway, they shall be required to pass in front of the bus, look in  
19 both directions, and proceed to cross the highway only on signal from  
20 the bus driver.

21 "(3) The driver of any vehicle when meeting a school bus on  
22 which the stop warning signal lights are flashing shall reduce the  
23 speed of said vehicle to not more than twenty (20) miles per hour,  
24 and shall bring said vehicle to a complete stop when school bus  
25 stops and stop signal arm is extended and said vehicle shall remain  
26 stopped until stop arm is retracted after which driver may pro-  
27 ceed with due caution.

28 "The driver of any vehicle overtaking a school bus shall not pass  
29 a school bus when flashing stop warning signal lights are flashing  
30 and shall bring said vehicle to a complete stop not closer than fifteen  
31 (15) feet of the school bus when it is stopped and stop arm is extended,  
32 and shall remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and school  
33 bus resumes motion, or until signalled by the driver to proceed.

34 "This section shall not apply to 'business' and 'residence' districts  
35 but shall apply in suburban districts of cities and towns."

1 SEC. 3. Section three hundred twenty-one point three hundred  
2 seventy-three (321.373), Code 1946, is hereby repealed and the fol-  
3 lowing enacted in lieu thereof:

4 "Every school bus except private passenger vehicles used as school  
5 buses shall be constructed and equipped to meet the following stand-  
6 ards:

7 "(1) All structural parts of the school bus body shall be all steel,  
8 or of other metal with a strength equivalent to all steel, as certified  
9 by bus body manufacturers. Suitable insulation materials shall be  
10 used. The bus body shall be of sufficient strength to support the  
11 entire weight of a fully loaded bus on its top or side if overturned.

12 "(2) The body shall be painted national school bus chrome.

13 "(3) There shall be but one compartment with seats arranged on  
14 each side of the bus body with an aisle at least twelve (12) inches  
15 wide between said seats. The aisle shall not be blocked by placing  
16 seats or other obstructions therein, nor shall any seat or obstruction  
17 be permitted at any time across the emergency exit.

18 "(4) A service door at least twenty-four (24) inches wide and  
19 forty-eight (48) inches high, the lower and upper panels of which  
20 shall be composed of safety glass, shall be placed on the front right  
21 side, opposite the driver.

22 "(5) The front door or doors shall be under the control of, and  
23 operated by the driver.

24 "(6) There shall be an emergency door in the center of the rear  
25 end of the body, at least twenty-four (24) inches wide and forty-eight  
26 (48) inches high provided with an easily operated safety catch not  
27 controlled from the driver's seat, but protected from accidental re-  
28 lease. The emergency door in pusher and transit type school buses  
29 shall be located as provided in the "standards of construction" estab-  
30 lished for such vehicles.

31 "(7) There shall be ample windows on each side.

32 "(8) There shall be ample roof ventilators.

33 "(9) It shall be equipped with an approved fresh air, hot water or  
34 combustion type heater of sufficient capacity to adequately heat the  
35 bus.

36 "(10) There shall be a comfortable seat for each child.

37 "(11) The fuel tank shall be located, filled, drained, and vented  
38 outside the bus body.

39 "(12) Bumpers both front and rear shall be fastened directly to  
40 the chassis.

41 "(13) Each bus shall carry the words 'School Bus' in black letters  
42 at least eight (8) inches high on front of the bus above the windshield  
43 and rear of bus above the windows or emergency door.

44 "(14) Each school bus shall be equipped with a stop signal arm at  
45 least twenty (20) inches long mounted on the left side of bus. The  
46 sign shall have the word 'stop' printed on both sides in black letters  
47 at least five (5) inches high on national school bus chrome background.

48 "(15) All school buses shall be equipped with four (4) flashing  
49 stop warning signal lights with a visible lens area of not less than  
50 twenty-eight (28) square inches and of sufficient intensity to be  
51 visible at least five hundred (500) feet in bright sunlight. The lights  
52 in front shall display an amber light. The lights on the rear shall

53 display a red light. The two (2) amber flashing stop warning lights  
 54 shall be mounted on the front of the bus body with the center  
 55 line of the lamps not less than two (2) feet to the right or left of the  
 56 center line of the bus and above the top line of the windshield. The  
 57 two (2) red flashing stop warning lights shall be mounted on the rear  
 58 of the bus body with the center line of the lamps not less than two (2)  
 59 feet to the right or left of the center line of the bus above the top line  
 60 of the rear windows or emergency door. The top of the flashing stop  
 61 warning lights shall be kept below the top line of the bus roof. The  
 62 lights shall be actuated manually with a switch mounted on the  
 63 steering column.

64 "(16) A vehicle designed as a passenger car and any other vehicle  
 65 designed to haul eight (8) pupils or less when being used as a school  
 66 bus shall be equipped with a sign bearing the words 'School Bus' in at  
 67 least six (6) inch black letters on national school bus chrome back-  
 68 ground and shall meet only such other requirements of this section  
 69 and of established standards for construction as are deemed neces-  
 70 sary by the superintendent of public instruction.

71 "(17) Vehicles owned by private parties, used as school buses,  
 72 must reverse or cover the words 'School Bus' when vehicle is not in  
 73 use as a school bus and flashing stop warning signals shall be used  
 74 only as provided in section three hundred twenty-one point three hun-  
 75 dred seventy-two (321.372), Code 1946."

1 SEC. 4. Section three hundred twenty-one point three hundred  
 2 seventy-four (321.374), Code 1946, is hereby repealed and the fol-  
 3 lowing enacted in lieu thereof:

4 "No vehicle shall be put into service as a school bus until it is given  
 5 an original inspection to determine if it meets all legal and estab-  
 6 lished uniform standards of construction for the protection of the  
 7 health and safety of children to be transported. Vehicles which are  
 8 approved shall be issued a seal of approval by the superintendent of  
 9 public instruction. All vehicles used as school buses shall be given a  
 10 safety inspection at least once a year. Buses passing the inspection  
 11 shall be issued an inspection seal of approval by the superintendent of  
 12 public instruction. The seal of original inspection and the annual  
 13 seal of inspection shall be affixed to the lower right hand corner of  
 14 the windshield."

1 SEC. 5. Section three hundred twenty-one point three hundred  
 2 seventy-five (321.375), Code 1946, is hereby repealed and the follow-  
 3 ing enacted in lieu thereof: "The drivers of school buses must: be at  
 4 least sixteen years of age, be physically and mentally competent, not  
 5 possess personal or moral habits which would be detrimental to the  
 6 best interests of safety and welfare of the children transported, have  
 7 an annual physical examination and meet all established requirements  
 8 for physical fitness.

9 "Use of alcoholic beverages or immoral conduct on the part of the  
 10 driver shall automatically cancel his contract and his re-employment  
 11 for the balance of the year is hereby prohibited."

1 SEC. 6. Section three hundred twenty-one point three hundred  
 2 seventy-six (321.376), Code 1946, is hereby repealed and the follow-  
 3 ing enacted in lieu thereof:

4 "The driver of every school bus shall have a regular or special  
5 chauffeur's license issued by the department of public safety, and in  
6 addition thereto, must hold a school bus driver's permit issued by the  
7 department of public instruction.

8 "Notwithstanding the provision of subsection two (2) of section  
9 three hundred twenty-one point one hundred seventy-seven (321.177),  
10 the department of public safety is hereby authorized to issue a special  
11 chauffeur's license to a person sixteen years of age to operate a school  
12 bus on request of local school board and recommendation of the state  
13 superintendent of public instruction."

1 SEC. 7. Section three hundred twenty-one point three hundred  
2 seventy-eight (321.378), Code 1946, is hereby amended by striking  
3 the number three hundred twenty-one point three hundred seventy-  
4 three (321.373) in line two (2) and substituting in lieu thereof the  
5 number, "three hundred twenty-one point three hundred seventy-two  
6 (321.372)."

1 SEC. 8. Section three hundred twenty-one point three hundred  
2 eighty (321.380), Code 1946, is hereby amended by striking the num-  
3 ber "three hundred twenty-one point three hundred seventy-three  
4 (321.373)" from line three (3) and substituting in lieu thereof the  
5 number, "three hundred twenty-one point three hundred seventy-  
6 two (321.372)."

1 SEC. 9. That section three hundred twenty-one point two hundred  
2 forty-nine (321.249) be and it is hereby amended by striking the  
3 word "and" in the first line of the said section, and inserting after the  
4 word "towns" in the first line of said section "and counties".

5 Further amend said section by inserting after the word "streets"  
6 in the fifth line of the said section the following: "in such cities and  
7 towns and highways in counties".

Approved April 20, 1949.

## CHAPTER 145

### MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT RESPONSIBILITY

#### S. F. 231

AN ACT to amend chapter one hundred seventy-two (172), Acts of the Fifty-second General Assembly relating to the giving of proof of financial responsibility and security by owners and operators of motor vehicles.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter one hundred seventy-two (172) Acts of the  
2 Fifty-second General Assembly is hereby amended by adding at the  
3 end of subsection (a) of section two (2) the following:

4 "Such hearings shall be held before the commissioner or his duly  
5 authorized agent as early as practicable within not to exceed twenty  
6 days after receipt of such request in the county wherein the request-  
7 ing person resides unless the commissioner and such person agree that  
8 such hearing may be held in some other county. Upon such hearing  
9 the commissioner or his duly authorized agent may administer oaths