

April 24, 1969
Passed on File

SENATE FILE 671

By COMMITTEE ON SCHOOLS

Passed Senate, Date.....5-2-69..... Passed House, Date.....5-19-69
Vote: Ayes44..... Nays1..... Vote: Ayes122..... Nays0.....
Approved

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school buses.

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

3 Section 1. Section three hundred twenty-one point three
4 hundred seventy-three (321.373), Code 1966, as amended by
5 chapter two hundred eighty (280), section one (1), Acts of
6 the Sixty-second General Assembly, is hereby repealed and
7 the following enacted in lieu thereof:

8 "1. Every school bus except private passenger vehicles
9 used as school buses shall be constructed and equipped to
10 meet safety standards prescribed in rules adopted by the
11 state board of public instruction. Such rules shall conform
12 to safety standards set forth in federal laws and regulations
13 and shall conform, insofar as practicable, to the minimum
14 standards for school buses recommended by the national con-
15 ference on school transportation administered by the national
16 commission on safety education and published by the national
17 education association.

18 2. Rules prescribed for school buses shall provide
19 standards for structural strength, materials, and insulation
20 of the school bus body; color; seat and aisle arrangement;
21 dimension and construction of service door; control of the
22 front door or doors; emergency door and its location and con-
23 struction; windows; roof ventilators; heaters; location,
24 filling, and draining of the fuel tank; bumpers and how
25 they shall be attached to the bus; lettering and identifica-

1 tion of the bus; stop signal arm; warning lights and flashing
2 lights.

3 3. The rules prescribed for school buses shall include
4 special rules for passenger automobiles, and other vehicles
5 designed to carry eight or fewer pupils, when used as school
6 buses.

7 4. Every school bus shall be equipped with a comfortable
8 seat for each child.

9 5. Vehicles owned by private parties and used as school
10 buses shall have reversed or covered the words 'school bus'
11 wherever they appear on the vehicle when the vehicle is not
12 in use as a school bus. It shall be unlawful to operate
13 flashing stop warning signals on such privately-owned vehicles
14 except as provided in section three hundred twenty-one point
15 three hundred seventy-two (321.372) of the Code.

16 6. No vehicle except school buses shall be operated on
17 any public highway if the vehicle is painted the color known
18 as national school bus chrome. This subsection shall not
19 apply to any vehicle owned by a school corporation, church,
20 or camp organization regularly transporting children; or by
21 a manufacturer of, distributor of, or dealer in school buses;
22 and any person purchasing a vehicle formerly used as a school
23 bus shall have ten days after such purchase to repaint the
24 vehicle."

25 Sec. 2. Chapter two hundred eighty (280), section two (2),
26 Acts of the Sixty-second General Assembly, amending section
27 three hundred twenty-one point three hundred seventy-two
28 (321.372), subsection one (1), Code 1966, is amended as fol-
29 lows:

30 1. By striking from line five (5) the word "amber".

31 2. By striking from lines five (5) and six (6) the words
32 "and the rear red flashing warning lamps".

33 3. By striking from line ten (10) the word "front".

34 Sec. 3. Chapter two hundred eighty (280), section five
35 (5), Acts of the Sixty-second General Assembly, amending sec-

1 tion three hundred twenty-one point three hundred seventy-two
 2 (321.372), subsection four (4), Code 1966, is hereby repealed.
 3 Sec. 4. Section three hundred twenty-one point three
 4 hundred seventy-two (321.372), subsection three (3), Code
 5 1966, as amended by chapter two hundred eighty (280), section
 6 two (2), Acts of the Sixty-second General Assembly, is further
 7 amended by striking from line twelve (12) the word "stop" and
 8 inserting in lieu thereof the words "red or amber".

EXPLANATION OF SENATE FILE 671

Iowa law is presently in conflict with federal requirements covering school bus lights. The federal regulations impose a fine of \$1,000 per bus which does not meet the federal requirements, thus new buses cannot be sold in Iowa until the Iowa statutes permit buses to conform to the federal requirements. This bill provides that the state board of public instruction shall adopt rules and regulations for the safe construction and operation of school buses, which will eliminate the necessity of amending the Iowa statutes each time the federal requirements are changed.

This bill also amends our statutes concerning traffic meeting and passing school buses, so that these statutes will be consistent with the new school bus equipment required by the federal regulations.

- 1 Amend Senate File 671 as follows:
- 2 By striking from the title on line 1 of page 1 the
- 3 words "school buses" and inserting in lieu thereof the
- 4 words "safety standards for the construction of school buses
- 5 and manner of use of certain safety equipment".

Filed - *Adopted 5-2*
 April 29, 1969

By BENDA

- 1 Amend Senate File 671 by adding the following new section:
- 2 "This Act being deemed of immediate importance shall be
- 3 in full force and effect from and after its passage and
- 4 publication in the Tipton Conservative, a newspaper published
- 5 at Tipton, Iowa, and in The Telegraph-Herald, a newspaper
- 6 published at Dubuque, Iowa."

Filed and adopted
 May 2, 1969

By WALSH