

MAR 10 1995

TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE FILE
BY COHOON

379

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the operation of flashing warning lamps on a
2 school bus.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 379

1 Section 1. Section 321.372, subsection 1, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 1995, is amended to read as follows:

3 The driver of a school bus used to transport children to
4 and from a public or private school shall, when stopping to
5 receive or discharge pupils, turn on flashing warning lamps at
6 a distance of not less than three hundred feet nor more than
7 five hundred feet from the point where the pupils are to be
8 received or discharged from the bus if the speed limit at that
9 point is forty-five miles per hour or greater and shall turn
10 on flashing warning lamps at a distance of not less than one
11 hundred fifty feet from the point where the pupils are to be
12 received or discharged from the bus if the speed limit at that
13 point is less than forty-five miles per hour. At the point of
14 receiving or discharging pupils the driver of the bus shall
15 bring the bus to a stop, turn off the amber flashing warning
16 lamps, turn on the red flashing warning lamps, and extend the
17 stop arm. After receiving or discharging pupils, the bus
18 driver shall turn off all flashing warning lamps, retract the
19 stop arm and proceed on the route. Except to the extent that
20 reduced visibility is caused by fog, snow or other weather
21 conditions, a school bus shall not stop to receive or
22 discharge pupils unless there is at least three hundred feet
23 of unobstructed vision in each direction. However, the driver
24 of a school bus is not required to use flashing warning lamps
25 and the stop arm when receiving or discharging pupils at a
26 designated loading and unloading zone at a school attendance
27 center or at extracurricular or educational activity locations
28 where students exiting the bus do not have to cross the street
29 or highway.

30 EXPLANATION

31 This bill requires that a driver of a school bus used to
32 transport children to and from school must turn on flashing
33 warning lamps at a distance of not less than 150 feet from the
34 point of receiving or discharging pupils if that point is
35 located in an area with a speed limit of less than 45 miles

1 per hour. Currently, the law provides that a driver must turn
2 on flashing warning lamps not less than 300 feet nor more than
3 500 feet from the point where pupils are to be received or
4 discharged from the bus. The bill provides that in areas with
5 speed limits of 45 miles per hour or greater, the current law
6 applies.

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