

321.372 Discharging pupils — stopping requirements — penalties.

[This section](#) shall be known and may be cited as the “*Keep Aware Driving — Youth Need School Safety Act*”.

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

b. If a school district contracts with an urban transit system to transport children to and from a public or private school, the school bus which is provided by the urban transit system shall not be required to be equipped with flashing warning lights and a stop arm. If the school bus provided by an urban transit system is equipped with flashing warning lights and a stop arm, the driver of the school bus shall use the flashing warning light and stop arm as required by law.

c. A school bus, when operating on a highway with four or more lanes shall not stop to load or unload pupils who must cross the highway, except at designated stops where pupils who must cross the highway may do so at points where there are official traffic control devices or police officers.

d. A school bus shall, while carrying passengers, have its headlights turned on.

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

3. a. The driver of a vehicle, including the driver of a vehicle operating on a private road or driveway, when meeting a school bus with flashing amber warning lamps shall reduce the vehicle's speed to not more than twenty miles per hour, and shall bring the vehicle to a complete stop when the school bus stops and the stop signal arm is extended. The vehicle shall remain stopped until the stop signal arm is retracted after which time the driver may proceed with due caution.

b. The driver of a vehicle, including the driver of a vehicle operating on a private road or driveway, overtaking a school bus shall not pass a school bus when red or amber warning signal lights are flashing. The driver shall bring the vehicle to a complete stop no closer than fifteen feet from the school bus when it is stopped and the stop arm is extended, and the vehicle shall remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and the school bus resumes motion.

4. The driver of a vehicle upon a highway providing two or more lanes in each direction need not stop upon meeting a school bus which is traveling in the opposite direction even though the school bus is stopped.

5. a. The driver of a school bus who commits a violation of [subsection 1](#) or [2](#) is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled violation under [section 805.8A](#), [subsection 10](#).

b. A person convicted of a violation of [subsection 3](#) is subject to the following:

(1) For a first offense under [subsection 3](#), the person is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable by a fine of at least three hundred forty-five dollars but not more than nine hundred thirty dollars or by imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or by both. The department may require the person to attend and successfully complete, at the person's own expense, a driver improvement program approved by the department in lieu of driver's license suspension for the offense pursuant to [section 321.210](#).

(2) For a second or subsequent offense under [subsection 3](#), the person is guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

[C31, 35, §5079-c8, -c10, -c11; C39, §**5032.01, 5032.03**; C46, §321.372, 321.374; C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §321.372; [81 Acts, ch 108, §2, 3](#)]

[91 Acts, ch 70, §1](#); [95 Acts, ch 118, §24](#); [2010 Acts, ch 1061, §180](#); [2012 Acts, ch 1015, §1, 2](#); [2020 Acts, ch 1074, §38, 93](#)

Referred to in [§321.354, 321.372A, 321.373, 321.378, 321.380, 321.423, 321.482A, 321.484, 331.653, 805.8A\(10\)](#)
2020 amendment to subsection 5, paragraph b, subparagraph (1) effective July 15, 2020; 2020 Acts, ch 1074, §93
Subsection 5, paragraph b, subparagraph (1) amended