

Act No. 184  
Public Acts of 1991  
Approved by the Governor  
December 27, 1991  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
December 27, 1991

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
86TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 1991**

Introduced by Senators Koivisto, Cisky, McManus and Berryman

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 387**

AN ACT to amend section 55 of Act No. 187 of the Public Acts of 1990, entitled "An act to regulate the equipment, maintenance, operation, and use of school buses and pupil transportation vehicles; to prescribe the qualifications of school bus and pupil transportation vehicle drivers; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental agencies; to create an advisory committee and to prescribe its powers and duties; and to prescribe remedies and penalties," as amended by Act No. 322 of the Public Acts of 1990, being section 257.1855 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Section 1. Section 55 of Act No. 187 of the Public Acts of 1990, as amended by Act No. 322 of the Public Acts of 1990, being section 257.1855 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 55. (1) A school bus driver shall actuate alternately flashing lights only when the school bus is stopped or stopping on a highway or private road for the purpose of receiving or discharging pupils in the manner provided in this act. A school bus driver shall not actuate the alternately flashing lights when operating on a public highway or private road and transporting passengers primarily other than school pupils.

(2) The driver of a school bus while operating upon the public highways or private roadways open to the public shall receive or discharge pupils from the bus in the following manner:

(a) If pupils are required to cross the roadway, the driver of a school bus equipped with only the alternately flashing red lights in accordance with section 17 shall activate the flashing red lights not less than 200 feet

before the stop and park the school bus as far off the right side of the roadway or private road as possible for the safety of the pupils being boarded or discharged, and continue to activate the alternately flashing red lights while receiving or discharging pupils. Before resuming motion, the driver shall deactivate these lights and allow congested traffic to disperse where practicable. The deactivation of these lights is the signal for stopped traffic to proceed.

(b) If the pupils are required to cross the roadway, the driver of a school bus equipped with red and amber alternately flashing lights in accordance with section 19 shall activate the alternately flashing amber lights not less than 200 feet before the stop, park the bus as far off the right side of the roadway or private road as is possible for the safety of the pupils being boarded or discharged, deactivate the amber flashing lights, and activate the alternately flashing red lights while receiving or discharging pupils. Before resuming motion, the driver shall deactivate these lights and allow congested traffic to disperse where practicable. The deactivation of these lights is the signal for stopped traffic to proceed.

(c) If the pupils are not required to cross the roadway and where the road has adequate width for the school bus to be pulled to the far right of the roadway or private road allowing traffic to flow and to provide for the safety of pupils being boarded or discharged, the driver may activate the hazard warning lights not less than 200 feet before the stop and continue to display the lights until the process of receiving or discharging passengers has been completed if the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. Before resuming motion, the driver shall deactivate these lights. The driver of a school bus shall only use this procedure at stops where the school administrator or board approved contractor has approved its use. If this hazard warning light option is not used, the driver shall use the appropriate procedure in subdivision (a) or (b) as if pupils were required to cross the roadway.

(d) Except as provided in subdivision (c), if the pupils are not required to cross the roadway and where the bus may be pulled off the roadway or private road or where the road has adequate width for the school bus to be pulled off to the far right of the roadway or private road leaving the normal traffic flow unobstructed and to provide for the safety of pupils being boarded or discharged, the driver may activate the hazard warning lights not less than 200 feet before the stop and continue to display the lights until the process of receiving or discharging passengers has been completed. Before resuming motion, the driver shall deactivate these lights. The driver of a school bus shall only use this procedure at stops where the school administrator or board approved contractor has approved its use. If this hazard warning light option is not used, the driver shall use the appropriate procedure in subdivision (a) or (b) as if pupils were required to cross the roadway.

(e) The distance of not less than 200 feet required for light activation by this subsection shall be measured on the roadway or private road on which the stop is made for receiving or discharging pupils.

(3) Passengers crossing the road upon being discharged from a school bus shall cross in front of the stopped school bus. If a school district authorizes its school bus drivers to signal pupils to cross in front of the stopped school bus, the signal shall be uniform throughout the school district.

(4) The driver of a school bus shall not stop the bus for the purpose of receiving or discharging pupils in the following instances:

(a) Within 200 feet of a public highway or roadway intersection unless the stop is approved by the school administrator or board approved contractor.

(b) Upon a limited access highway or freeway, or upon any other highway or roadway that has been divided into 2 roadways by leaving an intervening space, a physical barrier, or clearly divided sections so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic if the pupils are required to cross the highway or roadway.

(c) Upon a highway or roadway constructed or designed to permit 3 or more separate lanes of vehicular traffic in either direction if the pupils are required to cross the highway or roadway.

(5) The driver of a school bus when using the alternately flashing red stopping lights shall not stop the bus for the purpose of receiving or discharging pupils in the following instances:

(a) Unless the bus is clearly and continuously visible in its stopped position to approaching vehicles on that highway or roadway for not less than 400 feet.

(b) Within 50 feet of an intersection if the intersection is controlled by a traffic stop and go signal.

(6) A school may provide instruction on proper school bus etiquette which may include, but not be limited to, boarding and leaving the bus, evacuation of the bus in an emergency, and road crossing procedures and the correct hand signal in the district, if any. If a school uses school bus drivers for this instruction, the state board may reimburse the school for this training.

(7) For the purpose of this section, "required to cross the highway or roadway" does not include crossing the road with the assistance of a traffic control signal, or with the assistance of a crossing guard as defined in section 57b of the Michigan vehicle code, Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, being section 257.57b of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and applies only to the road on which the stop is being made.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

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Secretary of the Senate.

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Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved .....

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Governor.