

2025 -- H 6318

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LC002871
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SCHOOL BUS SAFETY
ENFORCEMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Caldwell, Craven, Morales, McEntee, Casimiro, Read,
O'Brien, Kazarian, Shanley, and Shallcross Smith
Date Introduced: May 09, 2025

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-51-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-51 entitled "School Bus
2 Safety Enforcement" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-51-2. Live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring systems.**

4 (a) ~~All school departments of this state are hereby authorized to~~ Every school bus placed
5 in service shall install and operate live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring
6 systems. Such systems shall at a minimum, be systems which monitor and detect school bus traffic
7 violations. For purposes of this chapter a live digital video school bus violation detection
8 monitoring system means a system with one or more camera sensors and computers which produce
9 live digital and recorded video of motor vehicles being operated in violation of school bus traffic
10 laws. All systems installed for used under this chapter must, at a minimum, produce a live visual
11 image viewable remotely, a recorded image of the license plate, and be able to record the time,
12 date, and location of the vehicle, and a signed affidavit by a person who witnessed the violation via
13 live video.

14 (b) The school departments may enter into an agreement with a private corporation or other
15 entity to provide live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring systems and to
16 maintain and operate such systems.

17 (c) The provisions of this section shall apply to all school buses including, but not limited
18 to, school buses used exclusively for the transportation of students receiving special education

1 [pursuant to chapter 24 of title 16.](#)

2 SECTION 2. Chapter 31-23 of the General Laws entitled "Equipment and Accessories
3 Generally" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

4 **31-23-59. School bus stop signs required.**

5 [\(a\) Every school bus placed in service shall be equipped with a retractable stop sign](#)
6 [mounted outside the bus. The retractable stop sign mounted outside the bus shall be visible from a](#)
7 [distance of not less than one hundred feet \(100'\). The method of installation for the retractable stop](#)
8 [sign shall be approved and certified by the division of motor vehicles. This system shall be](#)
9 [inspected at all regularly scheduled inspections.](#)

10 [\(b\) When the driver of the school bus has picked up students, the bus shall remain stopped,](#)
11 [with stop sign in a position visible to other motorists until all students are seated. Prior to any](#)
12 [student being permitted to disembark from the bus, the driver shall look to see that all approaching](#)
13 [traffic has stopped and observed the stop sign. After students have disembarked from the bus, the](#)
14 [driver shall allow ample time for the students to clear the bus area before closing the doors and](#)
15 [then, after remaining stopped for approximately ten \(10\) seconds, the driver shall announce through](#)
16 [public address system that the bus will proceed.](#)

17 [\(c\) The department of elementary and secondary education shall require a demonstration](#)
18 [of the operation of the retractable stop sign at each school which shall take place at least two \(2\)](#)
19 [times per year, one of which shall take place during the month of September.](#)

20 [\(d\) The provisions of this section shall apply to all school buses including, but not limited](#)
21 [to, school buses used exclusively for the transportation of students receiving special education](#)
22 [pursuant to chapter 24 of title 16.](#)

23 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would require every school bus including, but not limited to, school buses used
- 2 exclusively for the transportation of students receiving special education, to be equipped with a live
- 3 digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system and retractable stop sign mounted
- 4 outside the school bus.
- 5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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