



**Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee  
Sub. Senate Bill 179 Proponent Testimony (Written Ony)  
Ohio School Boards Association  
Buckeye Association of School Administrators  
Ohio Association of School Business Officials  
December 11, 2019**

Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 179.

Our organizations represent public school district boards of education, superintendents, treasurers/CFOs, business managers, and other school business officials from around the state. Our members appreciate Senators Uecker and Hottinger introducing this legislation that will have a positive impact on student safety in and around school busses. SB 179 would retain and continue current law requiring the display of two license plates for most motor vehicles, and repeal the recent change to only one license plate, set to be effective July 1, 2020. SB 179 will make it easier for school bus drivers to identify those vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses.

The number of vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses is a growing concern for all districts. The Ohio School Boards Association organized a bus passing survey for districts to record and report their incidents for one day this past March. The results from the 183 districts that returned the survey were staggering. Nearly one third of the 15,000 school bus drivers completed the survey and recorded over 1,500 buses were illegally passed. If all drivers experience this rate of being illegally passed – Ohio could have 4,500 buses illegally passed each day. The following factors were revealed from the survey:

- 45% of the illegal passing occurred in the morning
- 52% were illegally passed in the afternoon
- 73% were passed as approaching the bus from the front
- 27% were passed from the rear
- 98% were passed on the left
- 2% were passed on the right

The change in HB 62 (passed earlier this year) which would remove the front license plate requirement beginning with the next school year will make it more difficult for bus drivers to record the plate numbers of violators of bus stop traffic laws. This will not only hinder the identification of offenders, *it will make bus stops more dangerous for students.*

Chairman McColley and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, we urge your support for Sub. SB 179 and would be happy to address your questions.

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