As Introduced

133rd General Assembly
Regular Session H. B. No. 615
2019-2020

Representatives Sobecki, Miller, J.

A BILL

To enact section 4511.773 of the Revised Code to authorize the installation of protective barriers in school buses, to require the Director of Public Safety to adopt rules related to the barriers, and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 4511.773 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 4511.773. (A) As used in this section, "owner" means a person, school board, governing body, governing authority, or governmental entity.

(B)(1) An owner of a school bus may install a protective barrier around or near the operator's seat of the school bus for purposes of providing protection to the operator from infectious diseases. The owner shall install the barrier in accordance with the rules adopted under division (C) of this section.

(2) As part of the equipment inspection required under section 4511.761 of the Revised Code, the state highway patrol may inspect any protective barrier installed in a school bus to ensure that the barrier complies with the rules adopted under
division (C) of this section.

(C) The director of public safety, by and with the advice of the superintendent of public instruction, shall adopt and enforce rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code relating to the construction, design, and installation of the protective barrier authorized by division (B) of this section.

Section 2. As soon as possible after the effective date of this section, but not later than thirty days after that date, the Director of Public Safety shall adopt the rules required under division (C) of section 4511.773 of the Revised Code as emergency rules in accordance with division (G) of section 119.03 of the Revised Code. After adoption of the emergency rules, the Director shall adopt permanent rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

Section 3. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is that immediate action is crucial to protecting the public health during an outbreak of COVID-19 and any future infectious disease outbreak. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect.