

As Re-Referred by the House Rules and Reference Committee

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

Sub. H. B. No. 3

Representatives Willis, Thomas, C.

Cosponsors: Representatives Fischer, McClain, Brennan, Johnson, Williams, Synenberg, Daniels, Brewer, Click, Hiner, Piccolantonio, Claggett, Sigrist, Cockley

To amend sections 4503.03, 4510.036, 4511.75, 1
4511.751, and 4511.76 and to enact sections 2
5.501, 3327.18, and 3327.19 of the Revised Code 3
to address school bus safety, to designate this 4
act as the School Bus Safety Act, and to make an 5
appropriation. 6

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

Section 1. That sections 4503.03, 4510.036, 4511.75, 7
4511.751, and 4511.76 be amended and sections 5.501, 3327.18, 8
and 3327.19 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

Sec. 5.501. The month of August is designated as "School 10
Bus Safety Awareness Month" to increase public awareness of the 11
need to properly stop when a stopped school bus is loading and 12
unloading passengers. 13

Sec. 3327.18. (A) The school bus safety fund is created in 14
the state treasury. The fund shall consist of the criminal fines 15
collected for violations of division (A) of section 4511.75 of 16
the Revised Code. 17

(B) The fund shall be administered by the director of 18

education and workforce. Money in the fund shall be used to make 19
grants to school districts for purposes of improving the safety 20
features on school buses in accordance with section 3327.19 of 21
the Revised Code. 22

(C) All investment earnings of the fund shall be credited 23
to the fund. 24

Sec. 3327.19. (A) As used in this section: 25

(1) "Eligible applicant" means a board of education of a 26
city school district, a local school district, an exempted 27
village school district, a cooperative education school 28
district, or a joint vocational school district, or a governing 29
board of an educational service center. 30

(2) "School bus safety feature" means any of the 31
following: 32

- (a) External school bus cameras; 33
- (b) Crossing arms; 34
- (c) Lane departure warning systems; 35
- (d) Electronic stability control; 36
- (e) Lighted crossover mirrors; 37
- (f) Colorado rack test-approved bus frames; 38
- (g) Fully illuminated stop arms located at the front and 39
rear of a school bus; 40
- (h) Fully illuminated "school bus" signs; 41
- (i) Collision avoidance systems; 42
- (j) All light-emitting diode lights; 43

<u>(k) Ground wash lights;</u>	44
<u>(l) Reflective chevron;</u>	45
<u>(m) Occupant restraining devices that conform to the</u>	46
<u>school bus seat belt requirements of 49 C.F.R. 571;</u>	47
<u>(n) Silent panic alert technology that connects the school</u>	48
<u>bus to a public safety answering point to allow immediate</u>	49
<u>contact with emergency service;</u>	50
<u>(o) Broadband push-to-talk capabilities, integrated with</u>	51
<u>traditional land mobile radio, if necessary, for direct</u>	52
<u>interoperability with public safety and other emergency service</u>	53
<u>broadband applications;</u>	54
<u>(p) Additional safety features that become available</u>	55
<u>through advancements in technology and that are approved by the</u>	56
<u>department of public safety and the department of education and</u>	57
<u>workforce.</u>	58
<u>(3) "Emergency service" and "public safety answering</u>	59
<u>point" have the same meanings as in section 128.01 of the</u>	60
<u>Revised Code.</u>	61
<u>(B) The department of education and workforce shall</u>	62
<u>administer a school bus safety grant program. Under the grant</u>	63
<u>program, the department shall award grants to eligible</u>	64
<u>applicants who apply to the department for funding to do any of</u>	65
<u>the following:</u>	66
<u>(1) Purchase and install school bus safety features on an</u>	67
<u>eligible applicant's school buses that do not currently have</u>	68
<u>those features installed;</u>	69
<u>(2) Purchase and install school bus safety features to</u>	70
<u>replace old, broken, or outdated safety features on an eligible</u>	71

applicant's current school buses; 72

(3) Purchase school bus safety features as additional 73
features to be included on new school buses being purchased by 74
the eligible applicant. 75

(C) The department shall use the school bus safety fund 76
created under section 3327.18 of the Revised Code to provide 77
grants to eligible applicants in accordance with this section. 78

(D) The director of education and workforce shall 79
establish any procedures and requirements necessary to 80
administer this section, including procedures and requirements 81
governing the form of grant applications and grant award 82
processes and amounts. 83

(E) An eligible applicant that receives a grant under this 84
section shall do both of the following: 85

(1) Use the funds only for the purchase and installation 86
of school bus safety features; 87

(2) Spend any grant funds awarded not later than two years 88
after the date the funds are distributed to the eligible 89
applicant. 90

Sec. 4503.03. (A) (1) (a) Except as provided in division (B) 91
of this section, the registrar of motor vehicles may designate 92
one or more of the following persons to act as a deputy 93
registrar in each county: 94

(i) The county auditor in any county; 95

(ii) The clerk of a court of common pleas in any county; 96

(iii) An individual; 97

(iv) A nonprofit corporation as defined in division (C) of 98

section 1702.01 of the Revised Code. 99

All fees collected and retained by a clerk for conducting 100
deputy registrar services shall be paid into the county treasury 101
to the credit of the certificate of title administration fund 102
created under section 325.33 of the Revised Code. 103

(b) As part of the selection process in awarding a deputy 104
registrar contract, the registrar shall consider the customer 105
service performance record of any person previously awarded a 106
deputy registrar contract pursuant to division (A)(1) of this 107
section. 108

(2) Deputy registrars shall accept applications for the 109
annual license tax for any vehicle not taxed under section 110
4503.63 of the Revised Code and shall assign distinctive numbers 111
in the same manner as the registrar. Such deputies shall be 112
located in such locations as the registrar sees fit. Except as 113
provided in division (A)(3) of this section, there shall be at 114
least one deputy registrar in each county. 115

(3) The registrar need not appoint a deputy registrar in a 116
county to which all of the following apply: 117

(a) No individual, nonprofit corporation, or, where 118
applicable, clerk of court of common pleas participates in the 119
competitive selection process to be designated as a deputy 120
registrar; 121

(b) Neither the county auditor nor the clerk of court of 122
common pleas agrees to be designated as a deputy registrar; 123

(c) No individual or nonprofit corporation agrees to be 124
designated as a deputy registrar; 125

(d) No deputy registrar operating an existing deputy 126

registrar agency in another county agrees to be designated as 127
the deputy registrar for that county. 128

(4) The registrar may reestablish a deputy registrar in 129
any county without a deputy registrar if any of the following 130
apply: 131

(a) The county auditor requests to be designated as a 132
deputy registrar; 133

(b) The clerk of court of common pleas requests to be 134
designated as a deputy registrar; 135

(c) A deputy registrar operating an existing deputy 136
registrar agency in another county requests to be designated as 137
a deputy registrar for that county; 138

(d) A qualified individual or nonprofit corporation 139
requests to be designated as a deputy registrar. In the event 140
that two or more qualified individuals, nonprofit corporations, 141
or a combination thereof, request to be designated as a deputy 142
registrar, the registrar may make the designation through the 143
competitive selection process. 144

Deputy registrar contracts are subject to the provisions 145
of division (B) of section 125.081 of the Revised Code. 146

(B) (1) The registrar shall not designate any person to act 147
as a deputy registrar under division (A) (1) of this section if 148
the person or, where applicable, the person's spouse or a member 149
of the person's immediate family has made, within the current 150
calendar year or any one of the previous three calendar years, 151
one or more contributions totaling in excess of one hundred 152
dollars to any person or entity included in division (A) (2) of 153
section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. As used in this division, 154
"immediate family" has the same meaning as in division (D) of 155

section 102.01 of the Revised Code, and "entity" includes any 156
political party and any "continuing association" as defined in 157
division (C) (4) of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or 158
"political action committee" as defined in division (C) (8) of 159
that section that is primarily associated with that political 160
party. For purposes of this division, contributions to any 161
continuing association or any political action committee that is 162
primarily associated with a political party shall be aggregated 163
with contributions to that political party. 164

The contribution limitations contained in this division do 165
not apply to any county auditor or clerk of a court of common 166
pleas. A county auditor or clerk of a court of common pleas is 167
not required to file the disclosure statement or pay the filing 168
fee required under section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. The 169
limitations of this division also do not apply to a deputy 170
registrar who, subsequent to being awarded a deputy registrar 171
contract, is elected to an office of a political subdivision. 172

(2) The registrar shall not designate either of the 173
following to act as a deputy registrar: 174

(a) Any elected public official other than a county 175
auditor or, as authorized by division (A) (1) of this section, a 176
clerk of a court of common pleas, acting in an official 177
capacity, except that, the registrar shall continue and may 178
renew a contract with any deputy registrar who, subsequent to 179
being awarded a deputy registrar contract, is elected to an 180
office of a political subdivision; 181

(b) Any person holding a current, valid contract to 182
conduct motor vehicle inspections under section 3704.14 of the 183
Revised Code. 184

(3) As used in division (B) of this section, "political
subdivision" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 of the
Revised Code.

(C) (1) Except as provided in division (C) (2) of this
section, deputy registrars are independent contractors and
neither they nor their employees are employees of this state,
except that nothing in this section shall affect the status of
county auditors or clerks of courts of common pleas as public
officials, nor the status of their employees as employees of any
of the counties of this state, which are political subdivisions
of this state. Each deputy registrar shall be responsible for
the payment of all unemployment compensation premiums, all
workers' compensation premiums, social security contributions,
and any and all taxes for which the deputy registrar is legally
responsible. Each deputy registrar shall comply with all
applicable federal, state, and local laws requiring the
withholding of income taxes or other taxes from the compensation
of the deputy registrar's employees. Each deputy registrar shall
maintain during the entire term of the deputy registrar's
contract a policy of business liability insurance satisfactory
to the registrar and shall hold the department of public safety,
the director of public safety, the bureau of motor vehicles, and
the registrar harmless upon any and all claims for damages
arising out of the operation of the deputy registrar agency.

(2) For purposes of Chapter 4141. of the Revised Code,
determinations concerning the employment of deputy registrars
and their employees shall be made under Chapter 4141. of the
Revised Code.

(D) (1) With the approval of the director, the registrar
shall adopt rules governing deputy registrars. The rules shall

do all of the following: 215

(a) Establish requirements governing the terms of the 216
contract between the registrar and each deputy registrar and the 217
services to be performed; 218

(b) Establish requirements governing the amount of bond to 219
be given as provided in this section; 220

(c) Establish requirements governing the size and location 221
of the deputy's office; 222

(d) Establish requirements governing the leasing of 223
equipment necessary to conduct the vision screenings required 224
under section 4507.12 of the Revised Code and training in the 225
use of the equipment; 226

(e) Encourage every deputy registrar to inform the public 227
of the location of the deputy registrar's office and hours of 228
operation by means of public service announcements; 229

(f) Allow any deputy registrar to advertise in regard to 230
the operation of the deputy registrar's office, including 231
allowing nonprofit corporations operating as a deputy registrar 232
to advertise that a specified amount of proceeds collected by 233
the nonprofit corporation are directed to a specified charitable 234
organization or philanthropic cause; 235

(g) Specify the hours the deputy's office is to be open to 236
the public and require as a minimum that one deputy's office in 237
each county be open to the public for at least four hours each 238
weekend, provided that if only one deputy's office is located 239
within the boundary of the county seat, that office is the 240
office that shall be open for the four-hour period each weekend; 241

(h) Specify that every deputy registrar, upon request, 242

provide any person with information about the location and 243
office hours of all deputy registrars in the county; 244

(i) Allow a deputy registrar contract to be awarded to a 245
nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of this state; 246

(j) Establish procedures for a deputy registrar to request 247
the authority to collect reinstatement fees under sections 248
4507.1612, 4507.45, 4509.101, 4509.81, 4510.10, 4510.22, 249
4510.72, and 4511.191 of the Revised Code and to transmit the 250
reinstatement fees and two dollars of the service fee collected 251
under those sections. The registrar shall ensure that at least 252
one deputy registrar in each county has the necessary equipment 253
and is able to accept reinstatement fees. The registrar shall 254
deposit the service fees received from a deputy registrar under 255
those sections into the public safety - highway purposes fund 256
created in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code and shall use the 257
money for deputy registrar equipment necessary in connection 258
with accepting reinstatement fees. 259

(k) Establish standards for a deputy registrar, when the 260
deputy registrar is not a county auditor or a clerk of a court 261
of common pleas, to sell advertising rights to third party 262
businesses to be placed in the deputy registrar's office; 263

(l) Allow any deputy registrar that is not a county 264
auditor or a clerk of a court of common pleas to operate a 265
vending machine; 266

(m) Specify that each deputy registrar and driver 267
examination location shall display at all times, in a prominent 268
place on the premises, a graphic that instructs drivers to stop 269
and yield to a stopped school bus when it is either loading or 270
unloading passengers. 271

The registrar shall create and issue the graphic for 272
distribution to and display at each deputy registrar and driver 273
examination location. The registrar also shall display the 274
graphic on the bureau of motor vehicle's web site. 275

(n) Establish such other requirements as the registrar and 276
director consider necessary to provide a high level of service. 277

(2) The rules may allow both of the following: 278

(a) The registrar to award a contract to a deputy 279
registrar to operate more than one deputy registrar's office if 280
determined by the registrar to be practical; 281

(b) A nonprofit corporation formed for the purposes of 282
providing automobile-related services to its members or the 283
public and that provides such services from more than one 284
location in this state to operate a deputy registrar office at 285
any location. 286

(3) As a daily adjustment, the bureau of motor vehicles 287
shall credit to a deputy registrar the amount established under 288
section 4503.038 of the Revised Code for each damaged license 289
plate or validation sticker the deputy registrar replaces as a 290
service to a member of the public. 291

(4) (a) With the prior approval of the registrar, each 292
deputy registrar may conduct at the location of the deputy 293
registrar's office any business that is consistent with the 294
functions of a deputy registrar and that is not specifically 295
mandated or authorized by this or another chapter of the Revised 296
Code or by implementing rules of the registrar. 297

(b) In accordance with guidelines the director of public 298
safety shall establish, a deputy registrar may operate or 299
contract for the operation of a vending machine at a deputy 300

registrar location if products of the vending machine are 301
consistent with the functions of a deputy registrar. 302

(c) A deputy registrar may enter into an agreement with 303
the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure commission pursuant to 304
division (A)(11) of section 5537.04 of the Revised Code for the 305
purpose of allowing the general public to acquire from the 306
deputy registrar the electronic toll collection devices that are 307
used under the multi-jurisdiction electronic toll collection 308
agreement between the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure 309
commission and any other entities or agencies that participate 310
in such an agreement. The approval of the registrar is not 311
necessary if a deputy registrar engages in this activity. 312

(5) As used in this section and in section 4507.01 of the 313
Revised Code, "nonprofit corporation" has the same meaning as in 314
section 1702.01 of the Revised Code. 315

(E)(1) Unless otherwise terminated and except for interim 316
contracts lasting not longer than one year, contracts with 317
deputy registrars shall be entered into through a competitive 318
selection process and shall be limited in duration as follows: 319

(a) For contracts entered into between July 1, 1996 and 320
June 29, 2014, for a period of not less than two years, but not 321
more than three years; 322

(b) For contracts entered into on or after June 29, 2014, 323
for a period of five years, unless the registrar determines that 324
a shorter contract term is appropriate for a particular deputy 325
registrar. 326

(2) All contracts with deputy registrars shall expire on 327
the last Saturday of June in the year of their expiration. Prior 328
to the expiration of any deputy registrar contract, the 329

registrar, with the approval of the director, may award a one- 330
year contract extension to any deputy registrar who has provided 331
exemplary service based upon objective performance evaluations. 332

(3) (a) The auditor of state may examine the accounts, 333
reports, systems, and other data of each deputy registrar at 334
least every two years. The registrar, with the approval of the 335
director, shall immediately remove a deputy who violates any 336
provision of the Revised Code related to the duties as a deputy, 337
any rule adopted by the registrar, or a term of the deputy's 338
contract with the registrar. The registrar also may remove a 339
deputy who, in the opinion of the registrar, has engaged in any 340
conduct that is either unbecoming to one representing this state 341
or is inconsistent with the efficient operation of the deputy's 342
office. 343

(b) If the registrar, with the approval of the director, 344
determines that there is good cause to believe that a deputy 345
registrar or a person proposing for a deputy registrar contract 346
has engaged in any conduct that would require the denial or 347
termination of the deputy registrar contract, the registrar may 348
require the production of books, records, and papers as the 349
registrar determines are necessary, and may take the depositions 350
of witnesses residing within or outside the state in the same 351
manner as is prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in 352
civil actions in the court of common pleas, and for that purpose 353
the registrar may issue a subpoena for any witness or a subpoena 354
duces tecum to compel the production of any books, records, or 355
papers, directed to the sheriff of the county where the witness 356
resides or is found. Such a subpoena shall be served and 357
returned in the same manner as a subpoena in a criminal case is 358
served and returned. The fees of the sheriff shall be the same 359
as that allowed in the court of common pleas in criminal cases. 360

Witnesses shall be paid the fees and mileage provided for under 361
section 119.094 of the Revised Code. The fees and mileage shall 362
be paid from the fund in the state treasury for the use of the 363
agency in the same manner as other expenses of the agency are 364
paid. 365

In any case of disobedience or neglect of any subpoena 366
served on any person or the refusal of any witness to testify to 367
any matter regarding which the witness lawfully may be 368
interrogated, the court of common pleas of any county where the 369
disobedience, neglect, or refusal occurs or any judge of that 370
court, on application by the registrar, shall compel obedience 371
by attachment proceedings for contempt, as in the case of 372
disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from that 373
court, or a refusal to testify in that court. 374

(4) Nothing in division (E) of this section shall be 375
construed to require a hearing of any nature prior to the 376
termination of any deputy registrar contract by the registrar, 377
with the approval of the director, for cause. 378

(F) Except as provided in section 2743.03 of the Revised 379
Code, no court, other than the court of common pleas of Franklin 380
county, has jurisdiction of any action against the department of 381
public safety, the director, the bureau, or the registrar to 382
restrain the exercise of any power or authority, or to entertain 383
any action for declaratory judgment, in the selection and 384
appointment of, or contracting with, deputy registrars. Neither 385
the department, the director, the bureau, nor the registrar is 386
liable in any action at law for damages sustained by any person 387
because of any acts of the department, the director, the bureau, 388
or the registrar, or of any employee of the department or 389
bureau, in the performance of official duties in the selection 390

and appointment of, and contracting with, deputy registrars. 391

(G) The registrar shall assign to each deputy registrar a 392
series of numbers sufficient to supply the demand at all times 393
in the area the deputy registrar serves, and the registrar shall 394
keep a record in the registrar's office of the numbers within 395
the series assigned. Except as otherwise provided in section 396
3.061 of the Revised Code, each deputy shall be required to give 397
bond in the amount of at least twenty-five thousand dollars, or 398
in such higher amount as the registrar determines necessary, 399
based on a uniform schedule of bond amounts established by the 400
registrar and determined by the volume of registrations handled 401
by the deputy. The form of the bond shall be prescribed by the 402
registrar. The bonds required of deputy registrars, in the 403
discretion of the registrar, may be individual or schedule bonds 404
or may be included in any blanket bond coverage carried by the 405
department. 406

(H) Each deputy registrar shall keep a file of each 407
application received by the deputy and shall register that motor 408
vehicle with the name and address of its owner. 409

(I) Upon request, a deputy registrar shall make the 410
physical inspection of a motor vehicle and issue the physical 411
inspection certificate required in section 4505.061 of the 412
Revised Code. 413

(J) Each deputy registrar shall file a report semiannually 414
with the registrar of motor vehicles listing the number of 415
applicants for licenses the deputy has served, the number of 416
voter registration applications the deputy has completed and 417
transmitted to the board of elections, and the number of voter 418
registration applications declined. 419

Sec. 4510.036. (A) The bureau of motor vehicles shall 420
record within ten days of conviction or bail forfeiture and 421
shall keep at its main office, all abstracts received under this 422
section or section 4510.03, 4510.031, 4510.032, or 4510.034 of 423
the Revised Code and shall maintain records of convictions and 424
bond forfeitures for any violation of a state law or a municipal 425
ordinance regulating the operation of vehicles, streetcars, and 426
trackless trolleys on highways and streets, except a violation 427
related to parking a motor vehicle. 428

(B) Every court of record or mayor's court before which a 429
person is charged with a violation for which points are 430
chargeable by this section shall assess and transcribe to the 431
abstract of conviction that is furnished by the bureau to the 432
court the number of points chargeable by this section in the 433
correct space assigned on the reporting form. A United States 434
district court that has jurisdiction within this state and 435
before which a person is charged with a violation for which 436
points are chargeable by this section may assess and transcribe 437
to the abstract of conviction report that is furnished by the 438
bureau the number of points chargeable by this section in the 439
correct space assigned on the reporting form. If the federal 440
court so assesses and transcribes the points chargeable for the 441
offense and furnishes the report to the bureau, the bureau shall 442
record the points in the same manner as those assessed and 443
transcribed by a court of record or mayor's court. 444

(C) A court shall assess the following points for an 445
offense based on the following formula: 446

(1) Aggravated vehicular homicide, vehicular homicide, 447
vehicular manslaughter, aggravated vehicular assault, or 448
vehicular assault when the offense involves the operation of a 449

vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley on a highway or street 450
_____ 6 points 451

(2) A violation of section 2921.331 of the Revised Code or 452
any ordinance prohibiting the willful fleeing or eluding of a 453
law enforcement officer _____ 6 points 454

(3) A violation of section 4549.02 or 4549.021 of the 455
Revised Code or any ordinance requiring the driver of a vehicle 456
to stop and disclose identity at the scene of an accident 457
_____ 6 points 458

(4) A violation of section 4511.251 of the Revised Code or 459
any ordinance prohibiting street racing, stunt driving, or 460
street takeover _____ 6 points 461

(5) A violation of section 4510.037 of the Revised Code or 462
any ordinance prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while 463
the driver's or commercial driver's license is under a twelve- 464
point suspension _____ 6 points 465

(6) A violation of section 4510.14 of the Revised Code, or 466
any ordinance prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle upon 467
the public roads or highways within this state while the 468
driver's or commercial driver's license of the person is under 469
suspension and the suspension was imposed under section 4511.19, 470
4511.191, or 4511.196 of the Revised Code or section 4510.07 of 471
the Revised Code due to a conviction for a violation of a 472
municipal OVI ordinance or any ordinance prohibiting the 473
operation of a motor vehicle while the driver's or commercial 474
driver's license is under suspension for an OVI offense 475
_____ 6 points 476

(7) A violation of division (A) of section 4511.19 of the 477
Revised Code, any ordinance prohibiting the operation of a 478

vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, 479
or a combination of them, or any ordinance substantially 480
equivalent to division (A) of section 4511.19 of the Revised 481
Code prohibiting the operation of a vehicle with a prohibited 482
concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a 483
metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood 484
serum or plasma, breath, or urine _____ 6 points 485

(8) A violation of section 2913.03 of the Revised Code 486
that does not involve an aircraft or motorboat or any ordinance 487
prohibiting the operation of a vehicle without the consent of 488
the owner _____ 6 points 489

(9) Any offense under the motor vehicle laws of this state 490
that is a felony, or any other felony in the commission of which 491
a motor vehicle was used _____ 6 points 492

(10) A violation of division (B) of section 4511.19 of the 493
Revised Code or any ordinance substantially equivalent to that 494
division prohibiting the operation of a vehicle with a 495
prohibited concentration of alcohol in the whole blood, blood 496
serum or plasma, breath, or urine _____ 4 points 497

(11) A violation of section 4511.20 of the Revised Code or 498
any ordinance prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle in 499
willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property 500
_____ 4 points 501

(12) A violation of any law or ordinance pertaining to 502
speed: 503

(a) Notwithstanding divisions (C) (12) (b) and (c) of this 504
section, when the speed exceeds the lawful speed limit by thirty 505
miles per hour or more _____ 4 points 506

(b) When the speed exceeds the lawful speed limit of 507

fifty-five miles per hour or more by more than ten miles per hour _____ 2 points

(c) When the speed exceeds the lawful speed limit of less than fifty-five miles per hour by more than five miles per hour _____ 2 points

(d) When the speed does not exceed the amounts set forth in divisions (C) (12) (a), (b), or (c) of this section _____ 0 points

(13) A violation of division (A) of section 4511.204 of the Revised Code or any substantially similar municipal ordinance:

(a) For a first offense within any two-year period _____ 2 points

(b) For a second offense within any two-year period _____ 3 points

(c) For a third or subsequent offense within any two-year period _____ 4 points.

(14) A violation of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code:

(a) For a first offense within any five-year period _____ 2 points

(b) For a second or subsequent offense within any five-year period _____ 4 points.

(15) Operating a motor vehicle in violation of a restriction imposed by the registrar _____ 2 points

~~(15)~~ (16) A violation of section 4510.11, 4510.111, 4510.16, or 4510.21 of the Revised Code or any ordinance

prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while the driver's 535
or commercial driver's license is under suspension _____ 2 536
points 537

~~(16)~~ (17) With the exception of violations under section 538
4510.12 of the Revised Code where no points shall be assessed, 539
all other moving violations reported under this section 540
_____ 2 points 541

(D) Upon receiving notification from the proper court, 542
including a United States district court that has jurisdiction 543
within this state, the bureau shall delete any points entered 544
for a bond forfeiture if the driver is acquitted of the offense 545
for which bond was posted. 546

(E) If a person is convicted of or forfeits bail for two 547
or more offenses arising out of the same facts and points are 548
chargeable for each of the offenses, points shall be charged for 549
only the conviction or bond forfeiture for which the greater 550
number of points is chargeable, and, if the number of points 551
chargeable for each offense is equal, only one offense shall be 552
recorded, and points shall be charged only for that offense. 553

Sec. 4511.75. ~~(A)~~ (A) (1) The driver of a vehicle, 554
streetcar, or trackless trolley upon meeting or overtaking from 555
either direction any school bus stopped for the purpose of 556
receiving or discharging any school child, person attending 557
programs offered by community boards of mental health and county 558
boards of developmental disabilities, or child attending a 559
program offered by a head start agency, shall stop at least ten 560
feet from the front or rear of the school bus and shall not 561
proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until signaled 562
by the school bus driver or a law enforcement officer to 563
proceed. 564

(2) It is no defense to a charge under ~~this~~ division (A) 565
(1) of this section that the school bus involved failed to 566
display or be equipped with an automatically extended stop 567
warning sign as required by division (B) of this section. 568

(B) Every school bus shall be equipped with amber and red 569
visual signals meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of 570
the Revised Code, and an automatically extended stop warning 571
sign of a type approved by the department of education and 572
workforce, which shall be actuated by the driver of the bus 573
whenever but only whenever the bus is stopped or stopping on the 574
roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school 575
children, persons attending programs offered by community boards 576
of mental health and county boards of developmental 577
disabilities, or children attending programs offered by head 578
start agencies. A school bus driver shall not actuate the visual 579
signals or the stop warning sign in designated school bus 580
loading areas where the bus is entirely off the roadway or at 581
school buildings when children or persons attending programs 582
offered by community boards of mental health and county boards 583
of developmental disabilities are loading or unloading at 584
curbside or at buildings when children attending programs 585
offered by head start agencies are loading or unloading at 586
curbside. The visual signals and stop warning sign shall be 587
synchronized or otherwise operated as required by rule of the 588
board. 589

(C) Where a highway has been divided into four or more 590
traffic lanes, a driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or trackless 591
trolley need not stop for a school bus approaching from the 592
opposite direction which has stopped for the purpose of 593
receiving or discharging any school child, persons attending 594
programs offered by community boards of mental health and county 595

boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending 596
programs offered by head start agencies. The driver of any 597
vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley overtaking the school 598
bus shall comply with division (A) of this section. 599

(D) School buses operating on divided highways or on 600
highways with four or more traffic lanes shall receive and 601
discharge all school children, persons attending programs 602
offered by community boards of mental health and county boards 603
of developmental disabilities, and children attending programs 604
offered by head start agencies on their residence side of the 605
highway. 606

(E) No school bus driver shall start the driver's bus 607
until after any child, person attending programs offered by 608
community boards of mental health and county boards of 609
developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered 610
by a head start agency who may have alighted therefrom has 611
reached a place of safety on the child's or person's residence 612
side of the road. 613

~~(F)(1)~~ (F) Whoever violates division (A) of this section 614
~~may be fined an amount~~ is guilty of passing a stopped school 615
bus, an unclassified misdemeanor. The court, including a mayor's 616
court, shall punish the offender in accordance with divisions 617
(F)(1) to (6) of this section. 618

(1)(a) Except as provided in divisions (F)(1)(b) and (c) 619
of this section, the court shall impose upon the offender a fine 620
of not to exceed five less than two hundred fifty and not more 621
than one thousand dollars. A- 622

(b) If, within five years of the violation, the offender 623
has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a prior violation of 624

this section, the court shall impose upon the offender a fine of 625
not less than three hundred fifty and not more than two thousand 626
dollars. 627

(c) In lieu of the fine range specified in division (F) (1) 628
(a) of this section, the court may impose a fine of one hundred 629
fifty dollars for an offender who has not been convicted of or 630
pleaded guilty to a prior violation of this section if the 631
offender attends and successfully completes the school bus 632
safety course described in division (F) (4) of this section 633
within a time frame specified by the court. 634

(2) A person who is issued a citation for a violation of 635
division (A) of this section is not permitted to enter a written 636
plea of guilty and waive the person's right to contest the 637
citation in a trial but instead must appear in person in the 638
proper court to answer the charge. 639

~~(2) In addition to and independent of any other penalty~~ 640
~~provided by law, the~~ (3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in 641
division (F) (3) (b) of this section, the court or mayor may 642
impose upon an the offender who violates this section a class 643
seven six suspension of the offender's driver's license, 644
commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, 645
probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from 646
the range specified in division (A) (7) (A) (6) of section 4510.02 647
of the Revised Code. When 648

(b) If, within five years of the violation, the offender 649
has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a prior violation of 650
this section, the court shall impose upon the offender a class 651
five suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial 652
driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary 653
license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range 654

specified in division (A) (5) of section 4510.02 of the Revised 655
Code. 656

(c) When a license is suspended under this section, the 657
court ~~or mayor~~ shall cause the offender to deliver the license 658
to the court, and the court or clerk of the court immediately 659
shall forward the license to the registrar of motor vehicles, 660
together with notice of the court's action. 661

(4) If, within five years of the violation, the offender 662
has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a prior violation of 663
this section, the court shall require the offender to attend and 664
successfully complete a school bus safety course. The director 665
of public safety shall develop the contents and determine the 666
duration of the course. 667

(5) (a) Except as provided in division (F) (5) (b) of this 668
section, the court shall assess points for the violation in 669
accordance with section 4510.036 of the Revised Code. 670

(b) The court may waive the assessment of points for an 671
offender who has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a 672
prior violation of this section if the offender attends and 673
successfully completes the school bus safety course described in 674
division (F) (4) of this section within a time frame specified by 675
the court. 676

(6) The court may impose any other penalty authorized 677
under sections 2929.21 to 2929.28 of the Revised Code. However, 678
the court shall not impose a fine or a suspension not otherwise 679
specified in division (F) of this section. The court also shall 680
not impose a jail term or community residential sanction. 681

(G) Any fine collected under this section shall be paid to 682
the school bus safety fund created in section 3327.18 of the 683

Revised Code and shall be used for the purposes established 684
under that section. 685

(H) As used in this section: 686

(1) "Head start agency" has the same meaning as in section 687
3301.32 of the Revised Code. 688

(2) "School bus," as used in relation to children who 689
attend a program offered by a head start agency, means a bus 690
that is owned and operated by a head start agency, is equipped 691
with an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type 692
approved by the department, is painted the color and displays 693
the markings described in section 4511.77 of the Revised Code, 694
and is equipped with amber and red visual signals meeting the 695
requirements of section 4511.771 of the Revised Code, 696
irrespective of whether or not the bus has fifteen or more 697
children aboard at any time. "School bus" does not include a van 698
owned and operated by a head start agency, irrespective of its 699
color, lights, or markings. 700

Sec. 4511.751. (A) As used in this section, "license 701
plate" includes, but is not limited to, any temporary motor 702
vehicle license registration issued under section 4503.182 of 703
the Revised Code or similar law of another jurisdiction. 704

(B) When the operator of a school bus believes that a 705
motorist has violated division (A) of section 4511.75 of the 706
Revised Code, the operator shall report the license plate number 707
and a general description of the vehicle and of the operator of 708
the vehicle to the law enforcement agency exercising 709
jurisdiction over the area where the alleged violation occurred. 710
The information contained in the report relating to the license 711
plate number and to the general description of the vehicle and 712

the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation 713
may be supplied by any person with first-hand knowledge of the 714
information. Information of which the operator of the school bus 715
has first-hand knowledge also may be corroborated by any other 716
person, or an image, images, or video captured by a school bus 717
camera installed pursuant to section 4511.76 of the Revised 718
Code. 719

(C) (1) Upon receipt of the report of the alleged violation 720
of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code, the law 721
enforcement agency shall conduct an investigation to attempt to 722
determine or confirm the identity of the operator of the vehicle 723
at the time of the alleged violation. ~~If~~ 724

(2) If the identity of the operator at the time of the 725
alleged violation is established, the reporting of the license 726
plate number of the vehicle shall establish probable cause for 727
the law enforcement agency to issue a citation for the violation 728
of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code. ~~However,~~ 729
~~if~~ 730

(3) If the identity of the operator of the vehicle at the 731
time of the alleged violation cannot be established, the law 732
enforcement agency shall issue a warning to the owner of the 733
vehicle at the time of the alleged violation, except in the case 734
of a leased or rented vehicle when the warning shall be issued 735
to the lessee at the time of the alleged violation. 736

(4) A law enforcement agency shall not issue a citation in 737
accordance with this section based solely on an image, images, 738
or video captured by a camera installed pursuant to section 739
4511.76 of the Revised Code, but such image, images, or video 740
may corroborate other evidence and a report made in accordance 741
with this section. 742

(D) (1) The registrar of motor vehicles and deputy 743
registrars shall provide access to, at the time of issuing 744
license plates or a driver's license to any person, ~~include with~~ 745
~~the license plate~~ a summary of the following: 746

(a) The requirements of division (A) of section 4511.75 of 747
the Revised Code ~~and the~~; 748

(b) The procedures of, and penalty in, division (F) of 749
section 4511.75 of the Revised Code; 750

(c) The process, described in division (B) of this 751
section, that allows any person with first-hand knowledge of a 752
violation of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code 753
to corroborate the report made by the operator of a school bus. 754

(2) The registrar shall make the summaries required under 755
division (D) (1) of this section available on the bureau of motor 756
vehicles' web site. 757

Sec. 4511.76. (A) The department of public safety, by and 758
with the advice of the department of education and workforce, 759
shall educate the public regarding the laws pertaining to school 760
bus safety and shall adopt and enforce rules relating to the 761
construction, design, and equipment of all school buses both 762
publicly and privately owned and operated in this state, 763
including ~~lighting~~ rules governing both of the following: 764

(1) Lighting equipment required by section 4511.771 of the 765
Revised Code, ~~of all school buses both publicly and privately~~ 766
~~owned and operated in this state;~~ 767

(2) School bus camera equipment that captures an image, 768
images, or video solely for purposes of recording a violation of 769
section 4511.75 of the Revised Code. The departments shall not 770
authorize school bus camera equipment to be used for automated 771

enforcement of a violation of section 4511.75 of the Revised 772
Code. 773

(B) The department of education and workforce, by and with 774
the advice of the director of public safety, shall adopt and 775
enforce rules relating to the operation of all vehicles used for 776
pupil transportation. 777

(C) No person shall operate a vehicle used for pupil 778
transportation within this state in violation of the rules of 779
the department of education and workforce or the department of 780
public safety. No person, being the owner thereof or having the 781
supervisory responsibility therefor, shall permit the operation 782
of a vehicle used for pupil transportation within this state in 783
violation of the rules of the department of education and 784
workforce or the department of public safety. 785

(D) The department of public safety shall adopt and 786
enforce rules relating to the issuance of a license under 787
section 4511.763 of the Revised Code. The rules may relate to 788
the condition of the equipment to be operated; the liability and 789
property damage insurance carried by the applicant; the posting 790
of satisfactory and sufficient bond; and such other rules as the 791
director of public safety determines reasonably necessary for 792
the safety of the pupils to be transported. 793

(E) A chartered nonpublic school or a community school may 794
own and operate, or contract with a vendor that supplies, a 795
vehicle originally designed and manufactured for not more than 796
~~nine~~ ten passengers, ~~not~~ including the driver, to transport 797
students to and from regularly scheduled school sessions when 798
one of the following applies: 799

(1) A student's school district of residence has declared 800

the transportation of the student impractical pursuant to 801
section 3327.02 of the Revised Code; 802

(2) A student does not live within thirty minutes of the 803
chartered nonpublic school or the community school, as 804
applicable, and the student's school district is not required to 805
transport the student under section 3327.01 of the Revised Code; 806

(3) The governing authority of the chartered nonpublic 807
school or the community school has offered to provide the 808
transportation for its students in lieu of the students being 809
transported by their school district of residence. 810

(F) A school district may own and operate, or contract 811
with a vendor that supplies, a vehicle originally designed and 812
manufactured for not more than ~~nine-ten~~ passengers, ~~not~~ 813
including the driver, to transport students to and from 814
regularly scheduled school sessions, if both of the following 815
apply to the operation of that vehicle: 816

(1) The number of students to be transported is not more 817
than nine; 818

(2) The students attend a chartered nonpublic school or a 819
community school, and the school district regularly transports 820
students to that chartered nonpublic school or that community 821
school. 822

(G) A school district or the governing authority of a 823
chartered nonpublic school or community school that uses a 824
vehicle originally designed and manufactured for not more than 825
~~nine-ten~~ passengers, ~~not~~ including the driver, in accordance 826
with division (E) or (F) of this section, shall ensure that all 827
of the following apply to the operation of that vehicle: 828

(1) A qualified mechanic inspects the vehicle not fewer 829

than two times each year and determines that it is safe for 830
pupil transportation; 831

(2) The driver of the vehicle does not stop on the roadway 832
to load or unload passengers; 833

(3) The driver of the vehicle meets the requirements 834
specified for a driver of a school bus or motor van under 835
section 3327.10 of the Revised Code and any corresponding rules 836
adopted by the department of education and workforce. 837
Notwithstanding that section or any department rules to the 838
contrary, the driver is not required to have a commercial 839
driver's license but shall have a current, valid driver's 840
license, and shall be accustomed to operating the vehicle used 841
to transport the students; 842

(4) The driver and all passengers in the vehicle comply 843
with the requirements of sections 4511.81 and 4513.263 of the 844
Revised Code, as applicable. 845

(H) As used in this section, "vehicle used for pupil 846
transportation" means any vehicle that is identified as such by 847
the department of education and workforce by rule and that is 848
subject to Chapter 3301-83 of the Administrative Code. 849

(I) Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever 850
violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If the 851
offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to 852
one or more violations of this section or section 4511.63, 853
4511.761, 4511.762, 4511.764, 4511.77, or 4511.79 of the Revised 854
Code or a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to 855
any of those sections, whoever violates this section is guilty 856
of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. 857

Section 2. That existing sections 4503.03, 4510.036, 858

4511.75, 4511.751, and 4511.76 of the Revised Code are hereby 859
repealed. 860

Section 3. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 861
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 862
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 863
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 864
2026 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2027. 865
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 866
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 867

Section 4. 868
869

	1	2	3	4	5
A	EDU DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE				
B	State Lottery Fund Group				
C	7017	200413	School Bus Safety	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
D	State Lottery Fund Group Total			\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY 870

Of the foregoing appropriation item 200413, School Bus 871
Safety, up to \$100,000 in each fiscal year may be used by the 872
Department of Education and Workforce to administer the school 873
bus safety grant program under section 3327.19 of the Revised 874
Code. 875

The remainder of the foregoing appropriation item 200413, 876
School Bus Safety, shall be used to award school bus safety 877

grants pursuant to section 3327.19 of the Revised Code. 878

Any unexpended and unencumbered portion of the foregoing 879
appropriation item 200413, School Bus Safety, at the end of 880
fiscal year 2026 is hereby reappropriated for the same purpose 881
in fiscal year 2027. 882

Section 5. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 883
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 884
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 885
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 886
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 887
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 888
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 889
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act 890
of the 136th General Assembly. 891

Section 6. This act shall be known as the School Bus 892
Safety Act. 893