

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020**

**H. B. No. 657**

**Representative Galonski**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 4511.75 of the Revised Code to 1  
increase, from ten to twenty feet, the distance 2  
a driver is required to stop from a stopped 3  
school bus. 4

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

**Section 1.** That section 4511.75 of the Revised Code be 5  
amended to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 4511.75.** (A) The driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or 7  
trackless trolley upon meeting or overtaking from either 8  
direction any school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or 9  
discharging any school child, person attending programs offered 10  
by community boards of mental health and county boards of 11  
developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered 12  
by a head start agency, shall stop at least ~~ten~~twenty feet from 13  
the front or rear of the school bus and shall not proceed until 14  
such school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school 15  
bus driver to proceed. 16

It is no defense to a charge under this division that the 17  
school bus involved failed to display or be equipped with an 18  
automatically extended stop warning sign as required by division 19

(B) of this section. 20

(B) Every school bus shall be equipped with amber and red 21  
visual signals meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of 22  
the Revised Code, and an automatically extended stop warning 23  
sign of a type approved by the state board of education, which 24  
shall be actuated by the driver of the bus whenever but only 25  
whenever the bus is stopped or stopping on the roadway for the 26  
purpose of receiving or discharging school children, persons 27  
attending programs offered by community boards of mental health 28  
and county boards of developmental disabilities, or children 29  
attending programs offered by head start agencies. A school bus 30  
driver shall not actuate the visual signals or the stop warning 31  
sign in designated school bus loading areas where the bus is 32  
entirely off the roadway or at school buildings when children or 33  
persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental 34  
health and county boards of developmental disabilities are 35  
loading or unloading at curbside or at buildings when children 36  
attending programs offered by head start agencies are loading or 37  
unloading at curbside. The visual signals and stop warning sign 38  
shall be synchronized or otherwise operated as required by rule 39  
of the board. 40

(C) Where a highway has been divided into four or more 41  
traffic lanes, a driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or trackless 42  
trolley need not stop for a school bus approaching from the 43  
opposite direction which has stopped for the purpose of 44  
receiving or discharging any school child, persons attending 45  
programs offered by community boards of mental health and county 46  
boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending 47  
programs offered by head start agencies. The driver of any 48  
vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley overtaking the school 49  
bus shall comply with division (A) of this section. 50

(D) School buses operating on divided highways or on 51  
highways with four or more traffic lanes shall receive and 52  
discharge all school children, persons attending programs 53  
offered by community boards of mental health and county boards 54  
of developmental disabilities, and children attending programs 55  
offered by head start agencies on their residence side of the 56  
highway. 57

(E) No school bus driver shall start the driver's bus 58  
until after any child, person attending programs offered by 59  
community boards of mental health and county boards of 60  
developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered 61  
by a head start agency who may have alighted therefrom has 62  
reached a place of safety on the child's or person's residence 63  
side of the road. 64

(F) (1) Whoever violates division (A) of this section may 65  
be fined an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars. A person 66  
who is issued a citation for a violation of division (A) of this 67  
section is not permitted to enter a written plea of guilty and 68  
waive the person's right to contest the citation in a trial but 69  
instead must appear in person in the proper court to answer the 70  
charge. 71

(2) In addition to and independent of any other penalty 72  
provided by law, the court or mayor may impose upon an offender 73  
who violates this section a class seven suspension of the 74  
offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, 75  
temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or 76  
nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in 77  
division (A) (7) of section 4510.02 of the Revised Code. When a 78  
license is suspended under this section, the court or mayor 79  
shall cause the offender to deliver the license to the court, 80

and the court or clerk of the court immediately shall forward 81  
the license to the registrar of motor vehicles, together with 82  
notice of the court's action. 83

(G) As used in this section: 84

(1) "Head start agency" has the same meaning as in section 85  
3301.32 of the Revised Code. 86

(2) "School bus," as used in relation to children who 87  
attend a program offered by a head start agency, means a bus 88  
that is owned and operated by a head start agency, is equipped 89  
with an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type 90  
approved by the state board of education, is painted the color 91  
and displays the markings described in section 4511.77 of the 92  
Revised Code, and is equipped with amber and red visual signals 93  
meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of the Revised 94  
Code, irrespective of whether or not the bus has fifteen or more 95  
children aboard at any time. "School bus" does not include a van 96  
owned and operated by a head start agency, irrespective of its 97  
color, lights, or markings. 98

**Section 2.** That existing section 4511.75 of the Revised 99  
Code is hereby repealed. 100