

SENATE BILL 487

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R6

1999 Regular Session  
9r1144  
CF 9r1864

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By: **Senator Hooper**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Vehicles - Use of Flashing Warning Signals**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing school vehicle drivers to operate alternately flashing  
4 warning signals when exiting school grounds while carrying students at  
5 dismissal time.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Transportation  
8 Section 22-228  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article - Transportation**

14 22-228.

15 (a) (1) (i) The Administrator may adopt regulations for lighting  
16 equipment, special warning devices, markings, and identification to be used by school  
17 vehicles.

18 (ii) Regulations adopted under this paragraph shall be consistent  
19 with the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law.

20 (2) (i) A school vehicle shall be equipped with an 8-lamp system of  
21 alternately flashing signal lamps.

22 (ii) The equipment requirement of this paragraph applies only to:

23 1. Any school vehicle manufactured on or after January,  
24 1985, that is registered in this State; and

25 2. Any school vehicle registered in this State on or after July  
26 1, 1996, regardless of its date of manufacture.

1 (iii) The 8-lamp safety system of alternately flashing warning lights  
2 shall meet the standards contained in the SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers)  
3 Standard J887 (May 1982), and shall consist of 2 amber lamps and 2 red lamps at the  
4 rear of the vehicle, and 2 amber lamps and 2 red lamps at the front of the vehicle.

5 (3) A school vehicle may be equipped with a white flashing light installed  
6 on the roof of the vehicle.

7 (4) School vehicles shall be marked and identified as provided in, and  
8 school vehicle lighting equipment and special warning devices shall conform with, the  
9 regulations adopted by the Administrator.

10 (b) Except as provided in [subsection] SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (G) of this  
11 section, a person may not operate any alternately flashing warning signal on any  
12 school vehicle except when the school vehicle is stopping or stopped on a roadway for  
13 the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers.

14 (c) As to any school vehicle, whenever the vehicle is not being operated on a  
15 highway for the transportation of children, students, or teachers for educational  
16 purposes or in connection with a school activity:

17 (1) The alternately flashing warning lights shall be deactivated; and

18 (2) The words "school bus" at the front and rear of the vehicle shall be  
19 covered or otherwise concealed.

20 (d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, every school vehicle driver  
21 shall put in operation alternately flashing warning signals not less than 100 feet  
22 before bringing the vehicle to a full stop for the purpose of receiving or discharging  
23 passengers.

24 (e) (1) This subsection applies only to a school vehicle being driven on the  
25 same roadway as another school vehicle in the act of loading or unloading passengers.

26 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, every school vehicle  
27 driver shall put in operation alternately flashing warning signals when stopping,  
28 after approaching from the rear or the front, within 100 feet of another school vehicle  
29 in the act of loading or unloading passengers.

30 (f) (1) In this subsection, "loading zone" means an area on or adjacent to a  
31 highway, but not on its roadway:

32 (i) That has been designated for the purpose of receiving or  
33 discharging passengers by a school vehicle; and

34 (ii) Whose location has been approved by either the superintendent  
35 of schools in the local school system in which the loading is located, the Department of  
36 State Police, or the local police department, in cooperation with the State Highway  
37 Administration where applicable.

1           (2)       It is the policy of this State to encourage the establishment and use of  
2 loading zones for school vehicles.

3           (3)       Where a loading zone is available, a school vehicle driver, unless  
4 otherwise required for safety, may not stop on the roadway for the purpose of  
5 receiving or discharging passengers, but shall use the loading zone for this purpose.

6       (G)       WHEN EXITING SCHOOL GROUNDS, THE DRIVER OF A SCHOOL VEHICLE  
7 CARRYING STUDENTS AT DISMISSAL MAY PUT IN OPERATION ALTERNATELY  
8 FLASHING WARNING SIGNALS.

9       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 1999.