

**SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION REVISIONS**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill modifies the safety inspection requirements for school buses.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ changes the frequency of required safety inspections for school buses; and
- ▶ requires random inspections on a portion of school buses.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53-8-211**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 382

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53-8-211** is amended to read:

**53-8-211. Safety inspection of school buses and other vehicles.**

(1) (a) ~~[The]~~ A school bus operated by a school district or a private school in this state is required to pass a safety inspection annually and the Highway Patrol shall:

(i) perform safety inspections at least ~~[twice]~~ once each school year on all school buses operated by each school district and each private school in the state for the transportation of students, except as otherwise provided in Subsection (1)(b); ~~[and]~~

(ii) annually, at a time during the school year other than the time of the inspection described in Subsection (1)(a)(i), perform safety inspections on 20% of the school buses operated by a school district or private school, selected randomly, except as otherwise provided in Subsection (1)(b); and

~~[(iii)]~~ (iii) cause to be removed from the public highways any vehicle found to have

33 mechanical or other defects under this Subsection (1)(a) endangering the safety of passengers  
34 and the public until the defects have been corrected.

35 (b) (i) A school district or private school may perform the safety inspections of a  
36 school bus that it operates in accordance with rules made by the division under Title 63G,  
37 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, and after consultation with the State Board of  
38 Education.

39 (ii) The rules under Subsection (1)(b)(i) shall include provisions for:

40 (A) maintaining school bus drivers' hours of service records;

41 (B) requiring school bus drivers to maintain vehicle condition reports;

42 (C) maintaining school bus maintenance and repair records; and

43 (D) validating that defects discovered during the inspection process have been  
44 corrected prior to returning a school bus to service.

45 (iii) (A) The division shall audit school bus safety operations of each school district  
46 and private school performing inspections under Subsection (1)(b)(i) to ensure compliance  
47 with the rules made under that subsection.

48 (B) The audit may include both a formal examination of the district's or school's  
49 inspection records and a random physical inspection of buses that have been safety inspected  
50 by the district or the school.

51 (iv) A school district or school must have a comprehensive school bus maintenance  
52 plan approved by the division in order to participate in the safety inspection program.

53 (v) A school district or private school may not operate any vehicle found to have  
54 mechanical or other defects that would endanger the safety of passengers and the public until  
55 the defects have been corrected.

56 (2) Motor vehicles operated by private schools or school districts, and not used for the  
57 transportation of students, are subject to Section 53-8-205.