

**AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Mike K. McKell**

Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill enacts provisions authorizing the use of an automated traffic enforcement safety device on a school bus.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ authorizes the use of an automated traffic enforcement safety device on a school bus to capture a photograph or video image of a possible violation of certain traffic laws;

- ▶ authorizes the use of a photograph or video image obtained by an automated traffic enforcement safety device as evidence of certain traffic violations;

- ▶ provides for a portion of fines collected for certain traffic violations related to school buses to be allocated to offset costs of an automated traffic enforcement safety device if the device was used to provide evidence of a violation;

- ▶ provides rulemaking authority; and

- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

[41-6a-1302](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 412

30 **41-6a-1303**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 2

31 **78A-5-110**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 22 and renumbered and  
32 amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

33 **78A-6-210**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

34 **78A-7-120**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 205

35 ENACTS:

36 **41-6a-1310**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

39 Section 1. Section **41-6a-1302** is amended to read:

40 **41-6a-1302. School bus -- Signs and light signals -- Flashing amber lights --**  
41 **Flashing red lights -- Passing school bus -- Duty to stop -- Travel in opposite direction --**  
42 **Penalties.**

43 (1) A school bus, when operated for the transportation of school children, shall:

44 (a) bear on the front and rear of the bus a plainly visible sign containing the words  
45 "school bus" in letters not less than eight inches in height, which shall be removed or covered  
46 when the vehicle is not in use for the transportation of school children; and

47 (b) be equipped with alternating flashing amber and red light signals visible from the  
48 front and rear, of a type approved and mounted as required under Section **41-6a-1301** and  
49 prescribed by the department under Section **41-6a-1601**.

50 (2) The operator of a vehicle on a highway, upon meeting or overtaking a school bus  
51 equipped with signals required under this section which is displaying alternating flashing:

52 (a) amber warning light signals, shall slow the vehicle, but may proceed past the school  
53 bus using due care and caution at a speed not greater than specified in Subsection **41-6a-601(2)**  
54 for school zones for the safety of the school children that may be in the vicinity; or

55 (b) red light signals visible from the front or rear, shall stop immediately before  
56 reaching the bus and may not proceed until the flashing red light signals cease operation.

57 (3) The operator of a vehicle need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus

58 displaying alternating flashing red light signals if the school bus is traveling in the opposite  
59 direction when:

60 (a) traveling on a divided highway;

61 (b) the bus is stopped at an intersection or other place controlled by a traffic-control  
62 signal or by a peace officer; or

63 (c) on a highway of five or more lanes, which may include a left-turn lane or two-way  
64 left turn lane.

65 (4) (a) The operator of a school bus shall operate alternating flashing red light signals  
66 at all times when:

67 (i) children are unloading from a school bus to cross a highway;

68 (ii) a school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading children who must cross a  
69 highway to board the bus; or

70 (iii) it would be hazardous for vehicles to proceed past the stopped school bus.

71 (b) The alternating flashing red light signals may not be operated except:

72 (i) when the school bus is stopped for loading or unloading school children; or

73 (ii) for an emergency purpose.

74 (5) The operator of a school bus being operated on a highway shall have the headlights  
75 of the school bus lighted.

76 (6) (a) A violation of Subsection (2) or (3) is a class C misdemeanor and the minimum  
77 fine is:

78 (i) \$100 for a first offense;

79 (ii) \$200 for a second offense within three years of a previous conviction or bail  
80 forfeiture; and

81 (iii) \$500 for a third or subsequent offense within three years of a previous conviction  
82 or bail forfeiture.

83 (b) A violation of Subsection (5) is an infraction and the fine is \$50.

84 (c) The court may order the person to perform compensatory service in lieu of the fine  
85 or any portion of the fine if the court makes the reasons for the waiver part of the record.

86 (d) In accordance with Section 78A-5-110, 78A-6-210, or 78A-7-120, as applicable, if  
 87 a photograph or video image obtained from an automated traffic enforcement safety device  
 88 described in Section 41-6a-1310 was used as evidence of a violation of Subsection (2) or (3),  
 89 20% of the fine collected under Subsection (6)(a) shall be deposited with the school district or  
 90 private school that owns or contracts for the operation of the bus to offset the costs of the  
 91 automated traffic enforcement safety device.

92 (7) A violation of Subsection (1) or (4) is an infraction.

93 (8) The Driver License Division shall develop and implement a record system to  
 94 distinguish:

- 95 (a) a conviction or bail forfeiture under this section from other convictions; and
- 96 (b) between a first and subsequent conviction or bail forfeiture under this section.

97 Section 2. Section 41-6a-1303 is amended to read:

98 **41-6a-1303. Passing a school bus complaint procedure.**

99 (1) (a) An operator of a school bus who observes a violation of Subsection  
 100 41-6a-1302(2) or (3) may prepare a report, in a manner specified by the school district, to the  
 101 school district transportation coordinator no more than two working days after the alleged  
 102 violation occurred.

103 (b) (i) The report under Subsection (1)(a) shall contain:

- 104 [(i)] (A) the date, time, and location of the violation;
- 105 [(ii)] (B) the license plate number and state and description of the offending vehicle;
- 106 [(iii)] (C) as much as practical, a description of the operator of the offending vehicle;
- 107 [(iv)] (D) a description of the incident involving the violation;
- 108 [(v)] (E) information on how to contact the school bus operator who witnessed the  
 109 offense; and

110 [(vi)] (F) the signature of the operator of the school bus who witnessed the offense  
 111 attesting to the accuracy of the report.

112 (ii) The report under Subsection (1)(a) may contain photographs or video images  
 113 produced by an automated traffic enforcement safety device described in Section 41-6a-1310.

114 (2) (a) Upon receipt of a report in accordance with Subsection (1), the school district  
115 transportation coordinator shall promptly send a notification letter to the last-known registered  
116 owner of the vehicle.

117 (b) The notification letter shall include:

118 (i) the applicable information on the school bus operator's report stating that the vehicle  
119 was observed passing a school bus displaying alternating flashing red lights in violation of state  
120 law;

121 (ii) a complete explanation of the applicable provisions of Section 41-6a-1302; and

122 (iii) an explanation that the notification letter is not a peace officer citation but is an  
123 effort to call attention to the seriousness of the incident.

124 (c) The school district transportation coordinator may file the report with the local law  
125 enforcement agency that has jurisdiction for the alleged violation.

126 (3) A law enforcement agency that receives a report in accordance with Subsection (2)  
127 may have a peace officer initiate an investigation of the reported violation.

128 Section 3. Section 41-6a-1310 is enacted to read:

129 **41-6a-1310. School bus traffic safety devices.**

130 (1) For purposes of this section, "automated traffic enforcement safety device" means a  
131 device that:

132 (a) is affixed to a school bus;

133 (b) is capable of detecting a vehicle unlawfully overtaking or passing a school bus;

134 (c) is capable of producing a photograph or video image of the rear of a vehicle,

135 including an image of the vehicle's license plate; and

136 (d) produces a time stamp on the photograph or video image described in Subsection

137 (1)(c).

138 (2) A school district or private school may install an automated traffic enforcement  
139 safety device on a school bus.

140 (3) A photograph, video image, or other record produced by an automated traffic  
141 enforcement safety device may not be used for any purpose other than evidence for a violation

142 of Section [41-6a-1302](#).

143 (4) A photograph, video image, or other record produced by an automated traffic  
144 enforcement safety device is subject to Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and  
145 Management Act.

146 (5) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
147 State Board of Education may make rules to address student privacy concerns that may arise  
148 from the use of an automated traffic enforcement safety device authorized in this section.

149 Section 4. Section **78A-5-110** is amended to read:

150 **78A-5-110. Allocation of district court fees and forfeitures.**

151 (1) Except as provided in this section, district court fines and forfeitures collected for  
152 violation of state statutes shall be paid to the state treasurer.

153 (2) Fines and forfeitures collected by the court for violation of a state statute or county  
154 or municipal ordinance constituting a misdemeanor or an infraction shall be remitted 1/2 to the  
155 state treasurer and 1/2 to the treasurer of the state or local governmental entity which  
156 prosecutes or which would prosecute the violation.

157 (3) (a) Fines and forfeitures collected for violations of Title 23, Wildlife Resources  
158 Code of Utah, Title 41, Chapter 22, Off-Highway Vehicles, or Title 73, Chapter 18, State  
159 Boating Act, shall be paid to the state treasurer.

160 [~~(a)~~] (b) For violations of Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code of Utah, the state treasurer  
161 shall allocate 85% to the Division of Wildlife Resources and 15% to the General Fund.

162 [~~(b)~~] (c) For violations of Title 41, Chapter 22, Off-Highway Vehicles, or Title 73,  
163 Chapter 18, State Boating Act, the state treasurer shall allocate 85% to the Division of Parks  
164 and Recreation and 15% to the General Fund.

165 (4) Fines and forfeitures collected for violation of Section [72-7-404](#) or [72-7-406](#), less  
166 fees established by the Judicial Council, shall be paid to the state treasurer for deposit in the B  
167 and C road account. Fees established by the Judicial Council shall be deposited in the state  
168 General Fund. Money deposited in the class B and C road account is supplemental to the  
169 money appropriated under Section [72-2-107](#) but shall be expended in the same manner as other

170 class B and C road funds.

171 (5) (a) Fines and forfeitures collected by the court for a second or subsequent violation  
172 under Section 41-6a-1713 or Subsection 72-7-409(8)(b) shall be remitted:

173 (i) 60% to the state treasurer to be deposited in the Transportation Fund; and

174 (ii) 40% in accordance with Subsection (2).

175 (b) Fines and forfeitures collected by the court for a second or subsequent violation  
176 under Subsection 72-7-409(8)(c) shall be remitted:

177 (i) 50% to the state treasurer to be deposited in the Transportation Fund; and

178 (ii) 50% in accordance with Subsection (2).

179 (6) For fines and forfeitures collected by the court for a violation of Section  
180 41-6a-1302 in instances where evidence of the violation was obtained by an automated traffic  
181 enforcement safety device as described in Section 41-6a-1310, the court shall allocate 20% to  
182 the school district or private school that owns or contracts for the use of the bus, and the state  
183 treasurer shall allocate 40% to the treasurer of the state or local governmental entity that  
184 prosecutes or that would prosecute the violation, and 40% to the General Fund.

185 [~~6~~] (7) Fines and forfeitures collected for any violations not specified in this chapter  
186 or otherwise provided for by law shall be paid to the state treasurer.

187 [~~7~~] (8) Fees collected in connection with civil actions filed in the district court shall  
188 be paid to the state treasurer.

189 [~~8~~] (9) The court shall remit money collected in accordance with Title 51, Chapter 7,  
190 State Money Management Act.

191 Section 5. Section 78A-6-210 is amended to read:

192 **78A-6-210. Fines -- Fees -- Deposit with state treasurer -- Restricted account.**

193 (1) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the  
194 "Nonjudicial Adjustment Account."

195 (2) (a) The account shall be funded from the financial penalty established under  
196 Subsection 78A-6-602(2)(d)(i).

197 (b) The court shall deposit all money collected as a result of penalties assessed as part

198 of the nonjudicial adjustment of a case in the account.

199 (c) The account shall be used to pay the expenses of juvenile compensatory service,  
200 victim restitution, and diversion programs.

201 (3) (a) Except under [~~Subsection~~] Subsections (3)(b), (4), and as otherwise provided by  
202 law, all fines, fees, penalties, and forfeitures imposed and collected by the juvenile court shall  
203 be paid to the state treasurer for deposit in the General Fund.

204 (b) Not more than 50% of any fine or forfeiture collected may be paid to a state  
205 rehabilitative employment program for delinquent minors that provides for employment of the  
206 minor in the county of the minor's residence if:

207 (i) reimbursement for the minor's labor is paid to the victim of the minor's delinquent  
208 behavior;

209 (ii) the amount earned and paid is set by court order;

210 (iii) the minor is not paid more than the hourly minimum wage; and

211 (iv) no payments to victims are made without the minor's involvement in a  
212 rehabilitative work program.

213 (c) Fines withheld under Subsection (3)(b) and any private contributions to the  
214 rehabilitative employment program are accounted for separately and are subject to audit at any  
215 time by the state auditor.

216 (d) Funds withheld under Subsection (3)(b) and private contributions are nonlapsing.  
217 The Board of Juvenile Court Judges shall establish policies for the use of the funds described  
218 in this subsection.

219 (4) For fines and forfeitures collected by the court for a violation of Section  
220 41-6a-1302 in instances where evidence of the violation was obtained by an automated traffic  
221 enforcement safety device as described in Section 41-6a-1310, the court shall allocate 20% to  
222 the school district or private school that owns or contracts for the use of the bus, and the state  
223 treasurer shall allocate 80% to the General Fund.

224 [~~(4)~~] (5) No fee may be charged by any state or local public officer for the service of  
225 process in any proceedings initiated by a public agency.



226 Section 6. Section 78A-7-120 is amended to read:

227 **78A-7-120. Disposition of fines.**

228 (1) Except as otherwise specified by this section, fines and forfeitures collected by a  
229 justice court shall be remitted, 1/2 to the treasurer of the local government responsible for the  
230 court and 1/2 to the treasurer of the local government which prosecutes or which would  
231 prosecute the violation. An interlocal agreement created pursuant to Title 11, Chapter 13,  
232 Interlocal Cooperation Act, related to justice courts may alter the ratio provided in this section  
233 if the parties agree.

234 (2) (a) For violation of Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code of Utah, the court shall  
235 allocate 85% to the Division of Wildlife Resources and 15% to the general fund of the city or  
236 county government responsible for the justice court.

237 (b) For violation of Title 41, Chapter 22, Off-Highway Vehicles, or Title 73, Chapter  
238 18, State Boating Act, the court shall allocate 85% to the Division of Parks and Recreation and  
239 15% to the general fund of the city or county government responsible for the justice court.

240 (c) Fines and forfeitures collected by the court for a violation of Section 41-6a-1302 in  
241 instances where evidence of the violation was obtained by an automated traffic enforcement  
242 safety device as described in Section 41-6a-1310 shall be remitted:

243 (i) 20% to the school district or private school that owns or contracts for the use of the  
244 school bus; and

245 (ii) 80% in accordance with Subsection (1).

246 (3) The surcharge established by Section 51-9-401 shall be paid to the state treasurer.

247 (4) Fines, fees, court costs, and forfeitures collected by a municipal or county justice  
248 court for a violation of Section 72-7-404 or 72-7-406 regarding maximum weight limitations  
249 and overweight permits, minus court costs not to exceed the schedule adopted by the Judicial  
250 Council, shall be paid to the state treasurer and distributed to the class B and C road account.

251 (5) Revenue deposited in the class B and C road account pursuant to Subsection (4) is  
252 supplemental to the money appropriated under Section 72-2-107 but shall be expended in the  
253 same manner as other class B and C road funds.

254           (6) (a) Fines and forfeitures collected by the court for a second or subsequent violation  
255 under Section 41-6a-1713 or Subsection 72-7-409(8)(b) shall be remitted:

256           (i) 60% to the state treasurer to be deposited in the Transportation Fund; and

257           (ii) 40% in accordance with Subsection (1).

258           (b) Fines and forfeitures collected by the court for a second or subsequent violation  
259 under Subsection 72-7-409(8)(c) shall be remitted:

260           (i) 50% to the state treasurer to be deposited in the Transportation Fund; and

261           (ii) 50% in accordance with Subsection (1).