

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Craig Hall

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the Traffic Code by requiring a new school bus purchased after June 30, 2020, to be equipped with seatbelts.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires all new school buses purchased after June 30, 2020, to be equipped with seatbelts for all passengers;
- ▶ exempts certain parties from liability in a personal injury action related to the use, nonuse, or misuse of a seatbelt on a school bus;
- ▶ provides rulemaking authority; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

41-6a-1301, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 412

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



28 Section 1. Section **41-6a-1301** is amended to read:

29 **41-6a-1301. Standards and specifications for lighting and special warning devices**
30 **on school buses.**

31 (1) (a) A school bus shall be equipped with red signal lamps mounted as high and as
32 widely spaced laterally as practicable.

33 (b) The red signal lamps shall display two alternately flashing red lights, located at the
34 same level, to the front and rear of the school bus.

35 (c) The red signal lamps shall be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

36 (2) (a) A school bus shall be equipped with yellow signal lamps mounted near each of
37 the four red signal lamps and at the same level but closer to the vertical centerline of the bus.

38 (b) The yellow signal lamps shall display two alternately flashing yellow lights to the
39 front and rear of the school bus.

40 (c) The yellow signal lamps shall be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

41 (3) A school bus driver shall activate the yellow signal lamps at least 100 feet, but not
42 more than 500 feet, before every stop at which the alternately flashing red lights are activated.

43 (4) (a) A school bus with a model year of 2020 or newer that is purchased after June
44 30, 2020, shall be equipped with three-point seatbelts available for use by each passenger on
45 the school bus.

46 (b) In accordance with Section 41-6a-1304, the Department of Transportation shall
47 adopt and enforce rules governing the design and installation of seatbelts on school buses.

48 (c) The state, a county, a school district, a school bus operator under contract with a
49 school district, or an agent or employee of a school district or operator, including a teacher or
50 volunteer serving as a chaperone, is not required to ensure use or proper use of a seatbelt on a
51 school bus.

52 (d) The state, a county, a school district, a school bus operator under contract with a
53 school district, or an agent or employee of a school district or operator, including a teacher or
54 volunteer serving as a chaperone, is not liable in an action for personal injury to a school bus
55 passenger for an injury caused solely by a passenger's use, nonuse, or misuse of a seatbelt.

56 [~~4~~] (5) A violation of this section is an infraction.