

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 169

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROBERT OWEN, AMEDEE, BRASS, EMERSON,  
FREIBERG, JEFFERSON, CHARLES OWEN, ST. BLANC, AND TARVER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS: Provides for safety protocols for elementary school students when being  
dropped off at and picked up from school

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:81(CC), relative to the powers and duties of public school governing  
3 authorities; to require public schools and school districts to establish carpool and bus  
4 line safety policies; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:81(CC) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §81. General powers of local public school boards

8 \* \* \*

9 CC. Each public school governing authority shall establish a policy that  
10 includes the following procedures for carpool and bus lines at any school that  
11 includes any of the grades kindergarten through five:

12 (1) Students must remain behind a physical barrier until they enter a separate  
13 pick up area. Students shall remain a safe distance, as deemed appropriate for the  
14 particular school building, from the separate pick up area and wait for vehicles to  
15 come to a complete stop.

16 (2) A student being dropped off shall remain in the appropriate passenger  
17 restraint until the vehicle in which he is a passenger comes to a complete stop.

18 (3) A school employee working in the pick up area in any capacity shall  
19 wear a traffic vest.

1           (4) A student in grades kindergarten through five shall be accompanied by  
 2           a school employee while he is walking to and from a vehicle.

3           (5) School administrators shall post signage regarding the carpool and bus  
 4           line policy.

5           Section 2. This Act shall be known and may be cited as "The Safe Path from School  
 6           Act".

#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 169 Reengrossed

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Robert Owen

**Abstract:** Requires public school governing authorities to establish carpool and bus line safety policies.

Present law provides for the general powers and duties of local public school boards.

Proposed law requires each public school governing authority to establish a safety policy for carpool and bus lines at schools with grades kindergarten through five.

At a minimum, the policy shall:

- (1) Require students to remain behind a barrier before entering a pick up area.
- (2) Require students to remain a safe distance from the pick up area and wait for vehicles to come to a complete stop.
- (3) Require a student being dropped off to remain in a passenger restraint until the vehicle in which he is a passenger comes to a complete stop.
- (4) Require school employees working in the pick up area to wear traffic vests.
- (5) Require that students in grades kindergarten through five be accompanied by a school employee while walking to and from a vehicle.
- (6) Require school administrators to post signage regarding the policy.

(Adds R.S. 17:81(CC))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

##### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove the proposed law requirement that:
  - a. A student not enter the pick up area until the vehicle picking him up is in park.

- b. A student under the age of 10 years old be accompanied by a school employee while he is walking to and from a vehicle.
2. Add the proposed law requirement that:
- a. Students remain a safe distance from the pick up area and wait for vehicles to come to a complete stop.
  - b. A student being dropped off remain in a passenger restraint until the vehicle in which he is a passenger comes to a complete stop.
  - c. School administrators post signage regarding the policy.
  - d. A student in grades kindergarten through five be accompanied by a school employee.