

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

SCHOOLS/TRANSPORTATION. Prohibits school bus drivers from picking up or dropping off children at school while the bus is in a lane of traffic

DIGEST

Present law (R.S. 17:158) requires public school boards to provide a student free transportation to and from school if the student lives within the board's jurisdiction and more than one mile from the school. Further authorizes a school board to provide free transportation to students who live within one mile of the school, if the board determines that conditions warrant such free transportation. Present law further restricts the ability of the school board to eliminate or reduce such free transportation services. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public school, including charter schools, to adopt policies and procedures or to make provision in its bus transportation service agreement to:

- (1) Prohibit a bus driver from loading or unloading students at school while the bus is in a traffic lane of any type of street as defined in present law and require that students be loaded or unloaded on a shoulder, in a school parking lot, or at other appropriate off-road location at the school. Provides that such prohibition shall not apply when the shoulder of a municipal road is the only available alternative and the municipality has not made the shoulder available by designating that area for loading and unloading students during designated school zone hours.
- (2) Prohibit a bus driver from loading or unloading students at or near their homes while the bus is in a traffic lane of any type of street as defined in present law and require that students be loaded or unloaded on a shoulder. Provides that if there is no shoulder, a bus driver may load and unload a student while the bus is in a lane of traffic but only if the bus is in the lane farthest to the right side of the road so that the student does not need to cross any lane of traffic to get onto or off of the bus.
- (3) Prohibit a bus driver from loading or unloading students either at school or at or near their homes in a manner or in a location that results in students crossing lanes of traffic on a state highway or any other type of street.

(Adds R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

- 1. Provides that the proposed law prohibition does not apply if the shoulder of a municipal road is the only available alternative and the municipality has not made it available for loading and unloading students during designated school zone hours.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

- 1. Broadens application of proposed law to public school governing authorities and charter schools statewide instead of limiting its application to certain parishes.

2. Allows public school governing authorities and charter schools to provide the prohibition required by proposed law in their bus transportation service agreements as an alternative to doing so through the adoption of policies and procedures.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill

1. Broadens application of proposed law from a traffic lane to any type of street.
2. Broadens application of proposed law to apply to loading/unloading students at or near their homes. Provides that if there is no shoulder, students may be loaded/unloaded while the bus is in a traffic lane or street if the bus is in the far right lane and a student does not have to cross a lane of traffic.
3. Prohibits a bus from loading/unloading students at school or home in a manner that would require a student to cross lanes of traffic.