

## HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 600 by Representative Abramson

SCHOOLS/TRANSPORTATION: Requires public school governing authorities and charter schools to adopt policies or provide in bus transportation service agreements relative to the location of the loading and unloading of students

### Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Applies proposed law to loading/unloading students at home in addition to loading/unloading students at school.
2. Additionally requires policies or bus transportation agreements to prohibit bus drivers from loading/unloading students at school or at home in a manner that would require them to cross lanes of traffic.

### Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 or to make provision in bus transportation service agreements to do as follows:

- (1) Prohibit school bus drivers from loading/unloading students at school while the bus is in a traffic lane of any type of street and require such loading/unloading on a shoulder, in a school parking lot, or at other appropriate off-road location. Provides that such prohibition shall not apply if 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/unloading students during school zone hours.
- (2) Prohibit school bus drivers from loading/unloading students at or near their homes while the bus is in a traffic lane of any type of street and require such loading/unloading on a shoulder. Authorizes, if there is no shoulder, a bus driver to load/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 school bus drivers from loading/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))