
DIGEST

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HB 695 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Abramson

Abstract: Amends certain present law restrictions on where school buses may load/unload students.

Present law requires the governing authority of each public school, including charter schools, to adopt policies or to make provision in bus transportation service agreements relative to the loading/unloading of students.

- (1) At school: Present law prohibits loading/unloading students while the bus is in a traffic lane of a street unless the shoulder of a municipal road is the only available alternative and the municipality has not designated that shoulder for loading/unloading students during school zone hours. Proposed law retains present law.
- (2) At or near home: Present law requires loading/unloading students on a shoulder unless there is no shoulder; if the loading/unloading must occur in a lane of traffic, requires that the bus be 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. Proposed law retains present law except provides that using the shoulder is not required if it is less safe and prohibits loading/unloading where there is a lane of traffic between the bus and the right-side edge of the road rather than prohibiting loading/unloading where a student would have to cross a lane of traffic.
- (3) At school or at or near home: Present law prohibits loading/unloading students 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. Proposed law instead prohibits loading/ unloading on a roadway in a manner or in a location where all traffic is not controlled by the visual signals on the school bus as provided in present law (R.S. 32:80) that would require the student to cross lanes of traffic on the roadway in order to reach his school or home.

Present law (R.S. 32:80(A)(2)) specifies that a highway with two or more lanes in each direction and a two-way left turn lane is a divided highway with separate roadways, and so oncoming traffic is not required to stop for a bus on such a highway. Proposed law removes this exception from the requirement that vehicles stop for a school bus that is loading/ unloading students.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:158(J)(2) and (3) and R.S. 32:80(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Require loading/unloading students at or near their homes on a shoulder unless the shoulder is determined by the school governing authority to be less safe rather than unsafe.
2. Prohibit loading/unloading students at school or at or near their homes on certain roadways instead of certain highways.