

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 600

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON

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

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34), relative to the loading and unloading of school
3 buses; to provide limitations on the location of such loading and unloading; and to
4 provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §158. School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators;
8 alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus turnarounds

9 * * *

10 J.(1) The governing authority of each public school shall adopt policies and
11 procedures or shall make provision in its bus transportation service agreement to
12 prohibit a school bus driver from loading or unloading students at the school while
13 the bus is in a traffic lane and to require that such loading and unloading be done on
14 the shoulder of the road, in a school parking lot, or other appropriate off-road
15 location at the school as determined by the governing authority.

16 (2) The prohibition in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply if the
17 shoulder of a municipal road is the only available alternative and the municipality
18 has not made the shoulder available by designating that area for loading and
19 unloading students during designated school zone hours.

20 * * *

1 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

2 * * *

3 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
4 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
5 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
6 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
7 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
8 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
9 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

10 * * *

11 (34) School bus loading and unloading provisions, R.S. 17:158(J).

12 * * *

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)]

Abramson

HB No. 600

Abstract: Requires public school governing authorities and charter schools to adopt policies or provide in their bus transportation service agreements provisions prohibiting school bus drivers from loading and unloading students while a bus is in a traffic lane except under certain circumstances.

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 provide in their bus transportation service agreements provisions prohibiting school bus drivers from loading or unloading students at school while the bus is in a traffic lane and to provide for such loading and unloading on the shoulder of the road, in a school parking lot, or other appropriate off-road location. 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.

(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.