

ACT No. 654

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 600

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON AND SENATOR MURRAY

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 loading and unloading students

10 * * *

11 J. The governing authority of each public school shall adopt policies and
12 procedures or shall make provision in its bus transportation service agreement to do
13 all of the following:

14 (1) Prohibit a bus driver from loading or unloading students at school while
15 the bus is in a traffic lane of any type of street as defined in R.S. 32:1 and require
16 that students be loaded or unloaded on a shoulder, in a school parking lot, or at other
17 appropriate off-road location at the school as determined by the school governing
18 authority. The requirements of this Paragraph shall not apply if the shoulder of a
19 municipal road is the only available alternative and the municipality has not made
20 the shoulder available by designating that area for loading and unloading students
21 during designated school zone hours.

22 (2) Prohibit a bus driver from loading or unloading students at or near their
23 homes while the bus is in a traffic lane of any type of street as defined in R.S. 32:1
24 and require that students be loaded or unloaded on a shoulder. However, if there is

1 no shoulder, a bus driver may load and unload a student while the bus is in a lane of
2 traffic but only if the bus is in the lane farthest to the right side of the road so that the
3 student does not need to cross any lane of traffic to get onto or off of the bus.

4 (3) Prohibit a bus driver from loading or unloading students either at school
5 or at or near their homes in a manner or in a location that results in students crossing
6 lanes of traffic on a state highway or any other type of street.

7 * * *

8 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

9 * * *

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

17 * * *

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

19 * * *

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____