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SENATE BILL 5323

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Owen

Read first time 01/18/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the regulation of private school buses; amending  
2 RCW 46.32.010 and 46.37.193; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW;  
3 and adding a new section to chapter 46.37 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 "Private school bus" means a vehicle with a seating capacity of  
8 more than sixteen persons, including the driver, used regularly to  
9 transport students to and from a private school or in connection with  
10 private school activities.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.32.010 and 1993 c 403 s 2 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol may operate, maintain,  
14 or designate, throughout the state of Washington, stations for the  
15 inspection of school buses, private school buses, and private carrier  
16 buses, with respect to vehicle equipment, drivers' qualifications, and  
17 hours of service and to set reasonable times when inspection of  
18 vehicles shall be performed.

1 (2) The state patrol may inspect a commercial motor vehicle while  
2 the vehicle is operating on the public highways of this state with  
3 respect to vehicle equipment, hours of service, and driver  
4 qualifications.

5 (3) It is unlawful for any vehicle required to be inspected to be  
6 operated over the public highways of this state unless and until it has  
7 been approved periodically as to equipment.

8 (4) Inspections shall be performed by a responsible employee of the  
9 chief of the Washington state patrol, who shall be duly authorized and  
10 who shall have authority to secure and withhold, with written notice to  
11 the director of licensing, the certificate of license registration and  
12 license plates of any vehicle found to be defective in equipment so as  
13 to be unsafe or unfit to be operated upon the highways of this state,  
14 and it shall be unlawful for any person to operate such vehicle unless  
15 and until it has been placed in a condition satisfactory to pass a  
16 subsequent equipment inspection. The police officer in charge of such  
17 vehicle equipment inspection shall grant to the operator of such  
18 defective vehicle the privilege to move such vehicle to a place for  
19 repair under such restrictions as may be reasonably necessary.

20 (5) In the event any insignia, sticker, or other marker is adopted  
21 to be displayed upon vehicles in connection with the inspection of  
22 vehicle equipment, it shall be displayed as required by the rules of  
23 the chief of the Washington state patrol, and it is a traffic  
24 infraction for any person to mutilate, destroy, remove, or otherwise  
25 interfere with the display thereof.

26 (6) It is a traffic infraction for any person to refuse to have his  
27 motor vehicle examined as required by the chief of the Washington state  
28 patrol, or, after having had it examined, to refuse to place an  
29 insignia, sticker, or other marker, if issued, upon the vehicle, or  
30 fraudulently to obtain any such insignia, sticker, or other marker, or  
31 to refuse to place his motor vehicle in proper condition after having  
32 had it examined, or in any manner, to fail to conform to the provisions  
33 of this chapter.

34 (7) It is a traffic infraction for any person to perform false or  
35 improvised repairs, or repairs in any manner not in accordance with  
36 acceptable and customary repair practices, upon a motor vehicle.

37 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.37.193 and 1990 c 241 s 10 are each amended to read  
38 as follows:

1 Every school bus, private school bus, and private carrier bus, in  
2 addition to any other equipment or distinctive markings required by  
3 this chapter, shall bear upon the front and rear thereof, above the  
4 windows thereof, plainly visible signs containing only the words  
5 "school bus" on a school bus, only the words "private school bus" or  
6 "private carrier bus" on a private school bus, and only the words  
7 "private carrier bus" on a private carrier bus in letters not less than  
8 eight inches in height, and in addition shall be equipped with visual  
9 signals meeting the requirements of RCW 46.37.190.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.37 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12 A private school bus is subject to the requirements set forth in  
13 the National Minimum Standards for School Buses established by the  
14 national safety council in effect at the time of the bus manufacture,  
15 as adopted by rule by reference by the chief of the Washington state  
16 patrol. The requirements may not be less than those set forth in the  
17 1980 edition of the National Minimum Standards for School Buses  
18 established by the national safety council regardless of the date of  
19 manufacture.

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