
SENATE BILL 5449

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Warnick, Dozier, and Torres

Read first time 01/18/23. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the requirements for school buses used for
2 purposes other than the transportation of students; and amending RCW
3 46.61.380.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.380 and 2002 c 29 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The state superintendent of public instruction shall adopt
8 and enforce rules not inconsistent with the law of this state to
9 govern the design, marking, and mode of operation of all school buses
10 owned and operated by any school district or privately owned and
11 operated under contract or otherwise with any school district in this
12 state for the transportation of school children.

13 (2) School districts shall not be prohibited from placing or
14 displaying a flag of the United States on a school bus when it does
15 not interfere with the vehicle's safe operation. The state
16 superintendent of public instruction shall adopt and enforce rules
17 not inconsistent with the law of this state to govern the size,
18 placement, and display of the flag of the United States on all school
19 buses referenced in subsection (1) of this section.

20 (3) Rules shall by reference be made a part of any such contract
21 or other agreement with the school district. Every school district,

1 its officers and employees, and every person employed under contract
2 or otherwise by a school district is subject to such rules. It is
3 unlawful for any officer or employee of any school district or for
4 any person operating any school bus under contract with any school
5 district to violate any of the provisions of such rules.

6 (4) (a) Whenever a school bus is purchased for and is being used
7 for any purpose except to transport students, the purchaser shall:

8 (i) Remove the flasher lights;

9 (ii) Remove the stop arm; and

10 (iii) Paint the bus any color, except the national standard school
11 bus chrome yellow.

12 (b) Whenever a school bus is purchased for use, and is being
13 used, as a private carrier bus as defined in RCW 46.04.416, the
14 purchaser:

15 (i) May retain the flasher lights if the purchaser renders the
16 flasher lights inoperable;

17 (ii) May retain the stop arm if the purchaser renders the stop arm
18 inoperable; and

19 (iii) Shall paint the bus any color except the national standard
20 school bus chrome yellow.

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