
SENATE BILL 6634

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Benton, Eide, Kastama, Shin, Keiser, Spanel, Hargrove, Prentice and Oke

Read first time 01/27/2004. Referred to Committee on Highways & Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to enforcing the requirement to stop for a stopped
2 school bus; amending RCW 46.61.370; adding a new section to chapter
3 43.59 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.370 and 1997 c 80 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The driver of a vehicle upon overtaking or meeting from either
8 direction any school bus which has stopped on the roadway for the
9 purpose of receiving or discharging any school children shall stop the
10 vehicle before reaching such school bus when there is in operation on
11 said school bus a visual signal as specified in RCW 46.37.190 and said
12 driver shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion or the
13 visual signals are no longer activated.

14 (2) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway divided into separate
15 roadways as provided in RCW 46.61.150 need not stop upon meeting a
16 school bus which is proceeding in the opposite direction and is stopped
17 for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children.

18 (3) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with three or more

1 marked traffic lanes need not stop upon meeting a school bus which is
2 proceeding in the opposite direction and is stopped for the purpose of
3 receiving or discharging school children.

4 (4) The driver of a school bus shall actuate the visual signals
5 required by RCW 46.37.190 only when such bus is stopped on the roadway
6 for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children.

7 (5) The driver of a school bus may stop completely off the roadway
8 for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children only when
9 the school children do not have to cross the roadway. The school bus
10 driver shall actuate the hazard warning lamps as defined in RCW
11 46.37.215 before loading or unloading school children at such stops.

12 (6) A person found to have committed an infraction of subsection
13 (1) of this section shall be assessed a monetary penalty (~~equal to~~
14 ~~twice the total penalty assessed under RCW 46.63.110~~) of one thousand
15 dollars. This penalty may not be waived, reduced, or suspended. Fifty
16 percent of the money so collected shall be deposited into the school
17 zone safety account in the custody of the state treasurer and disbursed
18 in accordance with RCW 46.61.440(~~(+3)~~) (4).

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 43.59 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 The Washington traffic safety commission shall provide grants to
22 local law enforcement agencies for increased efforts in enforcement of
23 the requirement for drivers to stop for school buses when so indicated
24 under RCW 46.61.370.

25 The commission shall also produce and disseminate through all
26 possible media, informational and educational materials explaining the
27 extent of the problems caused by failure to stop for school buses, the
28 need for public involvement in their solution, and the penalties of
29 existing and new laws against failure to stop for school buses.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. If specific funding for the purposes of
31 section 2 of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number,
32 is not provided by June 30, 2004, in the transportation appropriations
33 act, section 2 of this act is null and void.

--- END ---