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HOUSE BILL 2270

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Dolan, Thai, and Wylie; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Prefiled 12/23/19. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to stop signal warning devices on school buses;  
2 and amending RCW 46.37.190.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.190 and 2005 c 183 s 8 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any  
7 other equipment and distinctive marking required by this chapter, be  
8 equipped with at least one lamp capable of displaying a red light  
9 visible from at least five hundred feet in normal sunlight and a  
10 siren capable of giving an audible signal.

11 (2) Every school bus and private carrier bus shall, in addition  
12 to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this  
13 chapter, be equipped with a "stop" signal upon a background not less  
14 than fourteen by eighteen inches displaying the word "stop" in  
15 letters of distinctly contrasting colors (~~not less than eight inches~~  
16 ~~high~~) that meet or exceed federal standards, and shall further be  
17 equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced  
18 laterally as practicable, which shall be capable of displaying to the  
19 front two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level  
20 and to the rear two alternately flashing red lights located at the

1 same level and these lights shall have sufficient intensity to be  
2 visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight.

3 (3) Vehicles operated by public agencies whose law enforcement  
4 duties include the authority to stop and detain motor vehicles on the  
5 public highways of the state may be equipped with a siren and lights  
6 of a color and type designated by the state patrol for that purpose.  
7 The state patrol may prohibit the use of these sirens and lights on  
8 vehicles other than the vehicles described in this subsection.

9 (4) The lights described in this section shall not be mounted nor  
10 used on any vehicle other than a school bus, a private carrier bus,  
11 or an authorized emergency or law enforcement vehicle.

12 (5) The use of the signal equipment described in this section and  
13 RCW 46.37.670, except the signal preemption devices used by public  
14 transit vehicles and department of transportation, city, or county  
15 maintenance vehicles that are not used in conjunction with emergency  
16 equipment, shall impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation  
17 to yield right-of-way and stop as prescribed in RCW 46.61.210,  
18 46.61.370, and 46.61.350.

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