

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1994

To require the Secretary of Transportation to review laws relating to the illegal passing of schoolbuses, execute a public safety messaging campaign related to illegal passing of schoolbuses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LONG, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KIND, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. SIRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to review laws relating to the illegal passing of schoolbuses, execute a public safety messaging campaign related to illegal passing of schoolbuses, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stop for School Buses
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. ILLEGAL PASSING OF SCHOOLBUSES.**

2 (a) REVIEW OF ILLEGAL PASSING LAWS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Transportation shall—

6 (A) prepare a compilation of illegal passing
7 laws in all States, including levels of enforce-
8 ment and penalties and enforcement issues with
9 such laws and the impact of such laws on illegal
10 passing of schoolbuses in each State;

11 (B) review existing State laws that may in-
12 hibit effective schoolbus loading zone counter-
13 measures, which may include laws requiring
14 camera visibility of a driver's face for enforce-
15 ment action, laws that may reduce stop-arm
16 camera effectiveness, the need for an officer to
17 witness the event for enforcement, and the lack
18 of primary enforcement for texting and driving;

19 (C) evaluate methods used by States to re-
20 view, document, and report to law enforcement
21 schoolbus stop-arm violations; and

22 (D) following the completion of the com-
23 pilation, issue recommendations on best prac-
24 tices on the most effective approaches to ad-
25 dress illegal passing of schoolbuses.

1 (2) PUBLICATION.—The compilation and rec-
2 ommendations prepared under paragraph (1) shall
3 be made publicly available on the website of the De-
4 partment of Transportation.

5 (b) PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGING CAMPAIGN.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the date on which the Secretary makes the compila-
8 tion and recommendations under subsection (a)(2)
9 publicly available, the Secretary shall create and exe-
10 cute a public safety messaging campaign for dis-
11 tribution to States, divisions of motor vehicles,
12 schools, and other public outlets to highlight the
13 dangers of the illegal passing of schoolbuses, and
14 should include educating students and the public on
15 safe loading and unloading of schoolbuses.

16 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
17 sult with public and private schoolbus industry rep-
18 resentatives and States in developing the campaign
19 materials.

20 (3) UPDATE.—The Secretary shall periodically
21 update such materials.

22 (c) REVIEW OF TECHNOLOGIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
25 shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of various

1 technologies to enhance schoolbus safety, including
2 cameras, audible warning systems, enhanced light-
3 ing, and other technological solutions.

4 (2) CONTENT.—The review under paragraph
5 (1)—

6 (A) shall include an evaluation of the costs
7 of new equipment and the potential impact on
8 overall schoolbus ridership;

9 (B) shall include an evaluation of advanced
10 technologies surrounding loading zone safety;

11 (C) shall include an evaluation of motion-
12 activated detection systems that are capable
13 of—

14 (i) detecting pedestrians, bicyclists,
15 and other road users located near the exte-
16 rior of the schoolbus; and

17 (ii) alerting the operator of the school-
18 bus of the road users described in clause

19 (i);

20 (D) shall include an evaluation of school-
21 bus lighting systems, to ensure clear commu-
22 nication to surrounding drivers on their appro-
23 priate action; and

24 (E) may include other technological solu-
25 tions that enhance schoolbus safety.

1 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
2 sult with manufacturers of schoolbus vehicles, manu-
3 facturers of various technologies, and school bus in-
4 dustry representatives in conducting the review
5 under paragraph (1).

6 (4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
7 the findings of the review under paragraph (1) pub-
8 licly available on the website of the Department.

9 (d) REVIEW OF DRIVER EDUCATION MATERIALS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 shall—

13 (A) review driver education materials
14 across all States to determine whether and how
15 illegal passing of schoolbuses is addressed in
16 driver education materials, manuals, non-com-
17 mercial driver’s license testing, and road tests;
18 and

19 (B) make recommendations on how States
20 can improve education about illegal passing of
21 schoolbuses, particularly with new drivers.

22 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
23 sult with schoolbus industry representatives, States,
24 motor vehicle administrators, and other appropriate

1 motor vehicle experts in the preparation of the re-
2 view under paragraph (1).

3 (3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
4 the findings of the review under paragraph (1) pub-
5 licly available on the website of the Department.

6 (e) REVIEW OF OTHER SAFETY ISSUES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
9 shall—

10 (A) research the connections between ille-
11 gal passing of schoolbuses and other safety
12 issues, including distracted driving, morning
13 darkness, poor visibility, illumination and reach
14 of vehicle headlights, speed limits, and school-
15 bus stop locations in rural areas; and

16 (B) create a report containing the findings.

17 (2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
18 the report created under paragraph (1)(B) publicly
19 available on the website of the Department.

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