

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1557, Page 1, Section A, Line 2, by
2 inserting after all of said section and line the following:

3
4 "304.050. 1. The driver of a vehicle upon a highway upon meeting or overtaking from either
5 direction any school bus which has stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or
6 discharging any school children and whose driver has in the manner prescribed by law given the
7 signal to stop, shall stop the vehicle before reaching such school bus and shall not proceed until such
8 school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by its driver to proceed. A public school district may
9 purchase, install, operate, and maintain cameras or video recording equipment on the exterior of
10 school buses, or may enter into a contract with a private vendor to purchase, install, operate, or
11 maintain cameras or video equipment on the exterior of school buses on behalf of the public school
12 district for the purpose of recording images of motor vehicles that are in violation of this subsection.

13 2. Every bus used for the transportation of school children shall bear upon the front and rear
14 thereon a plainly visible sign containing the words "school bus" in letters not less than eight inches in
15 height. Each bus shall have lettered on the rear in plain and distinct type the following: "State Law:
16 Stop while bus is loading and unloading". Each school bus subject to the provisions of sections
17 304.050 to 304.070 shall be equipped with a mechanical and electrical signaling device approved by
18 the state board of education, which will display a signal plainly visible from the front and rear and
19 indicating intention to stop.

20 3. Every school bus operated to transport students in the public school system which has a
21 gross vehicle weight rating of more than ten thousand pounds, which has the engine mounted
22 entirely in front of the windshield and the entrance door behind the front wheels, and which is used
23 for the transportation of school children shall be equipped no later than August 1, 1998, with a
24 crossing control arm. The crossing control arm, when activated, shall extend a minimum of five feet
25 six inches from the face of the front bumper. The crossing control arm shall be attached on the right
26 side of the front bumper and shall be activated by the same controls which activate the mechanical
27 and electrical signaling devices described in subsection 2 of this section. This subsection may be
28 cited as "Jessica's Law" in commemoration of Jessica Leicht and all other Missouri schoolchildren
29 who have been injured or killed during the operation of a school bus.

30 4. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the driver of a school bus in the process of
31 loading or unloading students upon a street or highway shall activate the mechanical and electrical
32 signaling devices, in the manner prescribed by the state board of education, to communicate to

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1 drivers of other vehicles that students are loading or unloading. A public school district shall have
2 the authority pursuant to this section to adopt a policy which provides that the driver of a school bus
3 in the process of loading or unloading students upon a divided highway of four or more lanes may
4 pull off of the main roadway and load or unload students without activating the mechanical and
5 electrical signaling devices in a manner which gives the signal for other drivers to stop and may use
6 the amber signaling devices to alert motorists that the school bus is slowing to a stop; provided that
7 the passengers are not required to cross any traffic lanes and also provided that the emergency
8 flashing signal lights are activated in a manner which indicates that drivers should proceed with
9 caution, and in such case, the driver of a vehicle may proceed past the school bus with due caution.
10 No driver of a school bus shall take on or discharge passengers at any location upon a highway
11 consisting of four or more lanes of traffic, whether or not divided by a median or barrier, in such
12 manner as to require the passengers to cross more than two lanes of traffic; nor shall any passengers
13 be taken on or discharged while the vehicle is upon the road or highway proper unless the vehicle so
14 stopped is plainly visible for at least five hundred feet in each direction to drivers of other vehicles in
15 the case of a highway with no shoulder and a speed limit greater than sixty miles per hour and at
16 least three hundred feet in each direction to drivers of other vehicles upon other highways, and on all
17 highways, only for such time as is actually necessary to take on and discharge passengers.

18 5. The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon
19 meeting or overtaking a school bus which is on a different roadway, or which is proceeding in the
20 opposite direction on a highway containing four or more lanes of traffic, or which is stopped in a
21 loading zone constituting a part of, or adjacent to, a limited or controlled access highway at a point
22 where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.

23 6. The driver of any school bus driving upon the highways of this state after loading or
24 unloading school children, shall remain stopped if the bus is followed by three or more vehicles,
25 until such vehicles have been permitted to pass the school bus, if the conditions prevailing make it
26 safe to do so.

27 7. If any vehicle is witnessed by a peace officer or the driver of a school bus or as determined
28 by a peace officer through the use of recorded images by a camera or video recording device
29 mounted on a school bus with a clear view of vehicles passing the bus on either side, showing the
30 date and time the recording was made, and an electronic symbol showing the activation of amber
31 lights, flashing red lights, stop arms, and brakes, to have violated the provisions of this section and
32 the identity of the operator is not otherwise apparent, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the
33 person in whose name such vehicle is registered committed the violation. In the event that charges
34 are filed against multiple owners of a motor vehicle, only one of the owners may be convicted and
35 court costs may be assessed against only one of the owners. If the vehicle which is involved in the
36 violation is registered in the name of a rental or leasing company and the vehicle is rented or leased
37 to another person at the time of the violation, the rental or leasing company may rebut the
38 presumption by providing the peace officer or prosecuting authority with a copy of the rental or lease
39 agreement in effect at the time of the violation. No prosecuting authority may bring any legal
40 proceedings against a rental or leasing company under this section unless prior written notice of the
41 violation has been given to that rental or leasing company by registered mail at the address appearing

1 on the registration and the rental or leasing company has failed to provide the rental or lease
2 agreement copy within fifteen days of receipt of such notice. The provisions of section 304.070
3 notwithstanding, any person charged with a violation of subsection 1 of this subsection where such
4 violation was based solely upon evidence obtained from a camera or video recording equipment,
5 may elect not to contest the charge and may, in lieu of appearance in court or other administrative
6 penalty, submit the fine to the address provided on the notice of violation or citation if such is the
7 person's first such violation and the violation did not result in an accident or injury of a child. The
8 proceeds from any fine imposed for a violation of subsection 1 of this section that is based solely
9 upon evidence obtained from a camera or video recording equipment shall be remitted to the public
10 school district and a portion of such proceeds may be allocated by an agreement between the public
11 school district and any law enforcement agency or operator of said cameras or video recording
12 equipment that assists with the issuance and administration of citations or the operation of such
13 cameras or video recording equipment.

14 8. Notwithstanding the provisions in section 301.130, every school bus shall be required to
15 have two license plates."; and

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17 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
18 accordingly.