

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1819

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ROORDA (Sponsor), COOKSON, MONTECILLO, SCHIEFFER,
MCNEIL, NORR, SCHUPP, ENGLUND, BUTLER AND ENGLISH (Co-sponsors).

5933H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 307.375, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to school buses, with a penalty provision.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 307.375, RSMo, is repealed and three new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 304.055, 304.065, and 307.375, to read as follows:

304.055. Any privately owned company that is operating under contract with a school district to transport school children and owns a school bus licensed in another state must notify the appropriate school district of the use of the school bus prior to the utilization of the school bus to transport school children.

304.065. All school buses privately owned and operated under contract with any school district in this state shall have operational two-way voice communication services on board prior to the utilization of the school bus to transport school children.

307.375. 1. The owner of every bus used to transport children to or from school in addition to any other inspection required by law shall submit the vehicle to an official inspection station, and obtain a certificate of inspection, sticker, seal or other device annually, but the inspection of the vehicle shall not be made more than sixty days prior to operating the vehicle during the school year. **No privately owned school bus company licensed in this state to conduct vehicle safety inspections or emissions tests shall inspect school buses owned by the company for the purposes of complying with this section.** The inspection shall, in addition to the inspection of the mechanism and equipment required for all motor vehicles under

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

9 the provisions of sections 307.350 to 307.390, include an inspection to ascertain that the
10 following items are correctly fitted, adjusted, and in good working condition:

- 11 (1) All mirrors, including crossview, inside, and outside;
- 12 (2) The front and rear warning flashers;
- 13 (3) The stop signal arm;
- 14 (4) The crossing control arm on public school buses required to have them pursuant to
15 section 304.050;
- 16 (5) The rear bumper to determine that it is flush with the bus so that hitching of rides
17 cannot occur;
- 18 (6) The exhaust tailpipe shall be flush with or may extend not more than two inches
19 beyond the perimeter of the body or bumper;
- 20 (7) The emergency doors and exits to determine them to be unlocked and easily opened
21 as required;
- 22 (8) The lettering and signing on the front, side and rear of the bus;
- 23 (9) The service door;
- 24 (10) The step treads;
- 25 (11) The aisle mats or aisle runners;
- 26 (12) The emergency equipment which shall include as a minimum a first aid kit, flares
27 or fuses, and a fire extinguisher;
- 28 (13) The seats, including a determination that they are securely fastened to the floor;
- 29 (14) The emergency door buzzer;
- 30 (15) All hand hold grips;
- 31 (16) The interior glazing of the bus;
- 32 **(17) Two-way voice communication services, if required by section 304.065.**

33 2. In addition to the inspection required by subsection 1 of this section, the Missouri state
34 highway patrol shall conduct an inspection after February first of each school year of all vehicles
35 required to be marked as school buses under section 304.050. This inspection shall be conducted
36 by the Missouri highway patrol in cooperation with the department of elementary and secondary
37 education and shall include, as a minimum, items in subsection 1 of this section and the
38 following:

- 39 (1) The driver seat belts;
- 40 (2) The heating and defrosting systems;
- 41 (3) The reflectors;
- 42 (4) The bus steps;
- 43 (5) The aisles;
- 44 (6) The frame.

45 3. If, upon inspection, conditions which violate the standards in subsection 2 of this
46 section are found, the owner or operator shall have them corrected in ten days and notify the
47 superintendent of the Missouri state highway patrol or those persons authorized by the
48 superintendent. If the defects or unsafe conditions found constitute an immediate danger, the bus
49 shall not be used until corrections are made and the superintendent of the Missouri state highway
50 patrol or those persons authorized by the superintendent are notified.

51 4. The Missouri highway patrol may inspect any school bus at any time and if such
52 inspection reveals a deficiency affecting the safe operation of the bus, the provisions of
53 subsection 3 of this section shall be applicable.

54 5. **All privately-owned bus companies shall be required to keep and provide upon**
55 **request all maintenance and inspection records, including requests by drivers for repair**
56 **services for each bus owned by the company that is operated under contract with any**
57 **school district in this state. It shall be the responsibility of the school district to maintain**
58 **the maintenance and inspection records and make them available pursuant to chapter 610.**

59 6. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 307.390 to the contrary, a violation of this
60 section shall be a class C misdemeanor.

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