



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2742		DATE: 1/20/2026
COMMITTEE: Transportation		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES W (JT) THOMAS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-858-4820	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PLATTE COUNTY R3 SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORATION	
ADDRESS: 998 PLATTE FALLS RD			
CITY: PLATTE CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64079
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: MIKE LODEWEGEN		PHONE NUMBER: (573) 638-2692
REPRESENTING: MO COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3550 AMAZONAS DRIVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: WARD COOK		PHONE NUMBER: 816-210-3276	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI PROSECUTOR's		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 200 MADISON ST, SUITE 1060			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 8:03 PM	
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While protecting children is a compelling and shared public interest, HB 2742 raises serious constitutional and procedural concerns that outweigh its stated purpose.

First, the bill authorizes automated enforcement through school-bus cameras while simultaneously removing traditional safeguards tied to in-person law enforcement observation.

This creates a risk of strict-liability enforcement without adequate confrontation, cross-examination, or meaningful opportunity to challenge evidence, raising due-process concerns under both the Missouri and U.S. Constitutions.

Second, the bill centralizes punitive authority by combining automated evidence collection, escalating fines, mandatory license suspensions, and felony exposure—without proportional judicial discretion. Mandatory penalties tied to automated detection undermine individualized justice and invite unequal application, particularly in rural or high-traffic districts.

Third, the statute restricts how fines are collected and adjudicated while limiting open-court disposition, creating transparency and access-to-justice concerns. Citizens should not face escalating criminal penalties through mechanisms that resemble revenue enforcement more than public safety.

Finally, while school safety is essential, public trust erodes when surveillance-based enforcement expands without narrow tailoring, strict retention limits, independent auditing, and explicit protections against misuse. HB 2742 does not sufficiently guard against mission creep or secondary use of data.

For these reasons, HB 2742 should not advance in its current form.

Any legislation addressing school bus safety must preserve constitutional protections, judicial discretion, transparency, and public confidence—not trade them for automation.