

AN ACT

relating to school bus safety; creating an offense.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 521.022(d), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) A person may not operate a school bus for the transportation of students unless the person's driving record is acceptable according to minimum standards adopted by the department. A check of the person's driving record shall be made with the department annually. The minimum standards adopted by the department must provide that a person's driving record is not acceptable if the person has been convicted of an offense under Section 49.04, 49.045, 49.07, or 49.08, Penal Code, within the 10-year period preceding the date of the check of the person's driving record.

SECTION 2. Section 541.201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (11-a) and amending Subdivision (15) to read as follows:

(11-a) "Multifunction school activity bus" means a motor vehicle that was manufactured in compliance with the federal motor vehicle safety standards for school buses in effect on the date of manufacture other than the standards requiring the bus to display alternately flashing red lights and to be equipped with movable stop arms, and that is used to transport preprimary,

1 primary, or secondary students on a school-related activity trip  
2 other than on routes to and from school. The term does not include a  
3 school bus, a school activity bus, a school-chartered bus, or a bus  
4 operated by a mass transit authority.

5 (15) "School activity bus" means a bus designed to  
6 accommodate more than 15 passengers, including the operator, that  
7 is owned, operated, rented, or leased by a school district, county  
8 school, open-enrollment charter school, regional education service  
9 center, or shared services arrangement and that is used to  
10 transport public school students on a school-related activity trip,  
11 other than on routes to and from school. The term does not include a  
12 chartered bus, a bus operated by a mass transit authority, ~~or~~ a  
13 school bus, or a multifunction school activity bus.

14 SECTION 3. Section 545.001, Transportation Code, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 545.001. DEFINITIONS [~~DEFINITION~~]. In this chapter:

17 (1) "Pass" [~~,"pass"~~] or "passing" used in reference  
18 to a vehicle means to overtake and proceed past another vehicle  
19 moving in the same direction as the passing vehicle or to attempt  
20 that maneuver.

21 (2) "School bus" includes a multifunction school  
22 activity bus.

23 SECTION 4. Section 545.413(a), Transportation Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (a) A person commits an offense if:

26 (1) the person:

27 (A) [~~(1)~~] is at least 15 years of age;

1            (B) [~~2~~] is riding in the front seat of a  
2 passenger vehicle while the vehicle is being operated;

3            (C) [~~3~~] is occupying a seat that is equipped  
4 with a safety belt; and

5            (D) [~~4~~] is not secured by a safety belt; or  
6            (2) as the operator of a school bus equipped with a  
7 safety belt for the operator's seat, the person is not secured by  
8 the safety belt.

9            SECTION 5. Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code,  
10 is amended by adding Section 545.426 to read as follows:

11            Sec. 545.426. OPERATION OF SCHOOL BUS. (a) A person may  
12 not operate a school bus if:

13            (1) the door of the school bus is open; or

14            (2) the number of passengers on the bus is greater than  
15 the manufacturer's design capacity for the bus.

16            (b) An operator of a school bus, while operating the bus,  
17 shall prohibit a passenger from:

18            (1) standing in the bus; or

19            (2) sitting:

20            (A) on the floor of the bus; or

21            (B) in any location on the bus that is not  
22 designed as a seat.

23            (c) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer  
24 and enforce this section.

25            SECTION 6. Subchapter L, Chapter 547, Transportation Code,  
26 is amended by adding Section 547.7012 to read as follows:

27            Sec. 547.7012. REQUIREMENTS FOR MULTIFUNCTION SCHOOL

1 ACTIVITY BUSES. A multifunction school activity bus may not be  
2 painted National School Bus Glossy Yellow.

3 SECTION 7. Chapter 34, Education Code, is amended by adding  
4 Section 34.0021 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 34.0021. SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY EVACUATION TRAINING.

6 (a) Pursuant to the safety standards established by the Department  
7 of Public Safety under Section 34.002, each school district shall  
8 conduct a training session for students and teachers concerning  
9 procedures for evacuating a school bus during an emergency.

10 (b) A school district shall conduct the school bus emergency  
11 evacuation training at least twice each school year, with one  
12 training session occurring in the fall and one training session  
13 occurring in the spring. A portion of the training session must  
14 occur on a school bus and the training session must last for at  
15 least one hour.

16 (c) The school bus emergency evacuation training must be  
17 based on the recommendations of the most recent edition of the  
18 National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures, as  
19 adopted by the National Congress on School Transportation, or a  
20 similar school transportation safety manual.

21 (d) Not later than the 30th day after the date that a school  
22 district completes a training session, the district shall provide  
23 the Department of Public Safety with a record certifying the  
24 district's completion of the training.

25 (e) The Department of Public Safety may adopt rules  
26 necessary to implement this section.

27 SECTION 8. The change in law made by this Act by adding

H.B. No. 3190

1 Section 34.0021, Education Code, applies beginning with the  
2 2007-2008 school year.

3 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3190 was passed by the House on May 11, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3190 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3190 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor