

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 445

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of a flashing warning signal light and certain other equipment by a person operating a school bus.

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

SECTION 1. Section 547.701, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(c) When a school bus is being stopped or is stopped on a highway to permit students to board or exit the bus, the operator of the bus shall activate all flashing warning signal lights and other equipment on the bus designed to warn other drivers that the bus is stopping to load or unload children.

(c-1) A person may not operate ~~[such]~~ a light or other equipment described by Subsection (c) except when a school ~~[the]~~ bus is being stopped or is stopped on a highway to:

(1) permit a student ~~[students]~~ to board or exit the bus; or

(2) distribute food to a student or the parent or guardian of a student.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For

1 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
2 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
3 before that date.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.