

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 137 (H.F. 392)

**SESSION:** 2012 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** School bus vehicle standards and agency housekeeping

**Date:** March 30, 2012

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## Overview

This act updates and modifies Minnesota's standards for school bus construction and equipment, with the changes made applicable to buses manufactured beginning January 1, 2013, and provides for some Department of Public Safety housekeeping on pupil transportation. The construction and equipment requirements are laid out in state statutes based on (1) adopted national standards developed by a pupil transportation organization, and (2) various modifications and additions to the national standards that are specific to Minnesota.

- 1 National standards adopted.** Updates the version of national school bus construction and equipment standards that are mandated to apply to Minnesota under state statutes, to use the 2010 standards instead of the 2005 version.
- 2 Applicability.** Makes the revised school bus standards applicable to school buses manufactured beginning January 1, 2013. The previous standards (in place before the statutory changes in the act) remain in effect for school buses manufactured before that date.
- 3 Colors.** Modifies coloring requirements and allowed equipment around certain school bus turn signals.
- 4 Seat and crash barriers.** Eliminates minimum seat depth and seat back height requirements on school buses, which are addressed in the revised national school bus standards (set in section 1 of the act). This has the effect of raising the minimum seat back height from 20 to 24 inches.
- 5 Crossing control arm.** Requires all school buses used in Minnesota that are manufactured after January 1, 2013, to be equipped with a crossing control arm on the front right bumper. The arm must be automatically activated in conjunction with flashing red lights (which under most circumstances are required to be used along with a stop-signal when loading and unloading passengers on the side of a road).

- 6**      **Auxiliary fans.** Mandates and specifies requirements for auxiliary fans in school buses.
- 7**      **Video/mobile surveillance systems.** Authorizes installation of surveillance camera systems on school buses and specifies requirements for a camera mounted mid-bus.
- 8**      **Duty to report; school official.** Amends a requirement on school district reporting to the Department of Public Safety when a student commits an offense relating to school bus safety, so that information is only provided to the department upon request.
- 9**      Repealer. Removes the following:
- section 169.441, subd. 5 - obsolete language that conflicts with more recent requirements governing school bus identification and information posted on the outside of the bus
  - section 169.445, subd. 2 - a provision requiring the Department of Public Safety to compile information on school bus-related traffic violations
  - section 169.454, subd. 10 - a provision on type III vehicles that requires them to be equipped with three reflectorized warning devices and prohibits flare