

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill updates and modifies Minnesota's standards for school bus construction and equipment, with the changes made applicable to buses manufactured beginning January 1, 2012. 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. Under current law, the 2005 national standards apply to school buses with some additions and modifications made in state statutes.
- 2 Applicability.** Makes the revised school bus standards applicable to school buses manufactured beginning January 1, 2012. The previous standards (in place before the statutory changes in the bill) 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 bill). 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, 2012, 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** **Repealer.** Removes a provision on type III vehicles that requires them to be equipped with three reflectorized warning devices and prohibits flares.