

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Selcer and others

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**Analyst:** Matt Burress, 296-5045

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### Overview

This is a Department of Public Safety agency bill on pupil transportation regulations.

#### Section

- 1**      **Misdemeanor.** Makes a conforming change.
- 2**      **Post-trip inspection.** Requires a school bus driver to perform an inspection inside the school bus once routes are complete, to confirm that no students remain unattended. Makes it a petty misdemeanor for failure to perform the inspection. If a child is left unattended due to a violation, the court must send the conviction to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and school district. (See section 10)
- 3**      **Violation; penalty.** Directs the State Patrol to perform spot inspections of school buses and Head Start buses. Makes violation of the out-of-service operation prohibition under section 4 a gross misdemeanor.
- 4**      **Operation of out-of-service school buses prohibited.** Prohibits operation of a school bus in passenger transportation when the bus has been marked as “out of service.”
- 5**      **Webbing cutter.** Mandates and specifies characteristics and location of a webbing cutter to be equipped in type III vehicles.
- 6**      **Failure to conduct post-trip inspection; reporting.** Mandates reporting by the carrier or district to the director of pupil transportation within 72 hours of a known violation of the unattended pupils post-trip inspection (established in section 2 of the bill). Exempts this

**Section**

section from the penalty section in chapter 169.

- 7**        **Exception for type III vehicle drivers.** Requires the driver of a type III vehicle whose driving privileges are removed, such as through license suspension or revocation, to notify the person's employer of it (by the close of business the day following the day in which the driver receives notice).
- 8**        **Definitions.** Makes failure to perform an unattended pupils post-trip inspection that results in a child being left unattended a "disqualifying offense," which has the effect (in conjunction with the provision in section 9) of permanently removing a person's privileges to operate without a commercial driver's license a type III vehicle, type A-I school bus, or type A-I multifunction school activity bus.
- 9**        **Cancellation for disqualifying and other offenses.** Disqualifies a person from driving a school bus for one year if the person is convicted of failure to perform an unattended pupils post-trip inspection that results in a child being left unattended.
- 10**       **Certified copy of disqualifying offense.** Requires a court to send conviction of a post-trip inspection violation under section 2, that results in a child being left unattended, to DPS and the school district.