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Overview

This bill amends various school bus vehicle and equipment requirements, including adopting more recent design standards for school buses produced by a national organization, revising some standards that are specified in statutes, eliminating limitations on placement and use of flashing strobe lamps, and amending the process in providing certification to the Department of Public Safety on school bus standards.

Section

- 1 White strobe amp on certain buses transporting children.** Eliminates mounting location and usage requirements for flashing strobe lamps on school buses and Head Start buses.
- 2 National standards adopted.** Amends school bus vehicle and equipment standards developed by a national standards organization, so that the 2015 standards are used instead of the 2010 standards. The standards are incorporated by reference for Minnesota, with various equipment aspects further modified via other statutory provisions (some of which are also being changed in the bill).
- 3 Applicability.** Makes the 2015 standards, along with most of the other bus equipment mandate changes made in the bill, effective for buses manufactured after December 31, 2017. This has the impact of applying the revised standards to new school buses starting in 2018, without modifying bus body, chassis, and equipment requirements for existing buses.
- 4 Certification.** Amends demonstration of school bus certification as meeting vehicle and equipment standards, so that it is required on request of the Department of Public Safety.

Section

- 5** **Floor construction.** Amends and expands requirements for plywood covering on metal floors of school buses.
- 6** **Insulation.** Eliminates some floor insulation requirements, which is substantially re-created in section 5 of the bill on floor construction.
- 7** **Windows.** Amends tinting and thermal glass requirements for windows at some locations on the bus.
- 8** **Video or mobile surveillance systems.** Expands the permitted width of some retrofitted video surveillance cameras, to be 3½ inches instead of three inches.
- 9** **Strobe lamp.** Eliminates mounting location and usage requirements for flashing strobe lamps on school buses and Head Start buses.
- 10** **Repealer.** Repeals statutory standards on school bus battery capacity, mounting, and storage.