

# School Bus (Safety) Bill

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**B I L L**

TO

Make requirements relating to the design and operation of school buses; to make provision about road safety training for drivers and users of school buses; to establish a school bus safety council; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 School buses: regulations**

- (1) The Secretary of State shall make regulations relating to the design, construction and operation of school buses.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, a “school bus” means a vehicle constructed or adapted to carry 12 or more passengers and being contracted to carry persons to or from a school. 5
- (3) Regulations made under subsection (1)—
  - (a) shall provide that buses must—
    - (i) be single decked,
    - (ii) be fitted with three point safety belts on every seat, 10
    - (iii) be fitted with large external “stop” signs which must be activated when the bus is stationary at bus stops,
    - (iv) be brightly and distinctly coloured, and
    - (v) display prominently on the interior and exterior notices containing safety advice for drivers, passengers and other road users; 15
  - (b) may make other provision about the design, construction, specifications and operation of school buses.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations made under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament. 20
- (5) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with any requirement of regulations made under subsection (1) is guilty of an offence.

- (6) A person committing an offence under this section shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

## 2 Offence of dangerous driving

- (1) The Road Traffic Act 1988 (c. 52) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 2A, there is inserted after subsection (2) – 5
- “(2A) A person is also to be regarded as driving dangerously for the purposes of sections 1 and 2 above if he overtakes a school bus while it is stationary at a bus stop and its stop sign is displayed.”

## 3 Safety training

- (1) Any school that uses a school bus to transport children to or from school must provide appropriate safety training to all children using the service. 10
- (2) Such training shall include guidance on conduct whilst –
- (a) boarding and alighting, and
- (b) travelling on board the bus. 15
- (3) In section 99ZB of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (requirements to complete training courses) there is inserted after subsection (5) –
- “(5A) Regulations under section 99ZA of this Act may provide that a school bus training course must be undertaken before any person may drive a school bus, as defined in section 1 of the School Bus (Safety) Act 2009 (school buses: regulations).” 20

## 4 Report to Parliament

- (1) The Secretary of State shall, in each calendar year following the year in which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a report on the operation of this Act.
- (2) A report under subsection (1) must include – 25
- (a) statistics on the number of accidents involving school buses,
- (b) information on the causes of such accidents, and
- (c) statistics on the number of –
- (i) school children, and
- (ii) others 30
- injured and killed in such accidents.

## 5 School Bus Safety Council

- (1) There shall be a School Bus Safety Council (“the Council”) to monitor and report on the effects of this Act.
- (2) The Council shall consist of a Chairman and no more than five other members appointed by the Secretary of State and including a representative of the Confederation of Passenger Transport. 35
- (3) The Council may take evidence from such persons as it considers appropriate.

- (4) The Council may report to the Secretary of State from time to time and may make recommendations for amendments to this Act or to any regulations relating to school bus safety made under this or any other Act.
- (5) *The Secretary of State may make payments to members of the Council in respect of expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.* 5
- (6) *The Secretary of State may defray any other expenses of the Panel.*

## 6 Expenses

*There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –*

- (a) *any sums to be paid by the Secretary of State for or in connection with the carrying out of his functions under this Act; and* 10
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums which are payable out of money so provided under any other Act.*

## 7 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the School Bus (Safety) Act 2009.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State shall by order appoint. 15
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales and Scotland.

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To make requirements relating to the design and operation of school buses; to make provision about road safety training for drivers and users of school buses; to establish a school bus safety council; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Malcolm Bruce  
supported by  
Miss Anne Begg, Mr David Blunkett,  
Peter Bottomley, Mark Pritchard,  
Willie Rennie and Sir Robert Smith.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 13 May 2009.*

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