

**As Introduced**

**128th General Assembly  
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**H. B. No. 80**

**Representative Domenick**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Harris, Letson, Luckie, Newcomb, Okey,  
Phillips, Sayre, Yuko**

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**A B I L L**

To amend sections 4511.75, 4511.771, and 4513.17 of 1  
the Revised Code to require that all new school 2  
buses be equipped with a single white strobe light 3  
to be activated at all times when the bus is 4  
transporting passengers. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 4511.75, 4511.771, and 4513.17 of 6  
the Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 7

**Sec. 4511.75.** (A) The driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or 8  
trackless trolley upon meeting or overtaking from either direction 9  
any school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging 10  
~~any school child, person attending programs offered by community~~ 11  
~~boards of mental health and county boards of mental retardation~~ 12  
~~and developmental disabilities, or child attending a program~~ 13  
~~offered by a head start agency~~ passengers, shall stop at least ten 14  
feet from the front or rear of the school bus and shall not 15  
proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by 16  
the school bus driver to proceed. 17

It is no defense to a charge under this division that the 18

school bus involved failed to display or be equipped with an 19  
automatically extended stop warning sign as required by division 20  
(B) of this section. 21

(B) Every school bus shall be equipped with amber and red 22  
visual signals meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of the 23  
Revised Code, and an automatically extended stop warning sign of a 24  
type approved by the state board of education, which shall be 25  
actuated by the driver of the bus whenever but only whenever the 26  
bus is stopped or stopping on the roadway for the purpose of 27  
receiving or discharging ~~school children, persons attending~~ 28  
~~programs offered by community boards of mental health and county~~ 29  
~~boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, or~~ 30  
~~children attending programs offered by head start agencies~~ 31  
passengers. A school bus driver shall not actuate the visual 32  
signals or the stop warning sign in designated school bus loading 33  
areas where the bus is entirely off the roadway or at school 34  
buildings when ~~children or persons attending programs offered by~~ 35  
~~community boards of mental health and county boards of mental~~ 36  
~~retardation and developmental disabilities~~ passengers are loading 37  
or unloading at curbside or at buildings when children attending 38  
programs offered by head start agencies are loading or unloading 39  
at curbside. The visual signals and stop warning sign shall be 40  
synchronized or otherwise operated as required by rule of the 41  
board. 42

The strobe light required by section 4511.771 of the Revised 43  
Code shall be activated by the driver of the bus and remain in 44  
operation at all times when the school bus is transporting 45  
passengers. 46

(C) Where a highway has been divided into four or more 47  
traffic lanes, a driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or trackless 48  
trolley need not stop for a school bus approaching from the 49  
opposite direction which has stopped for the purpose of receiving 50

or discharging ~~any school child, persons attending programs~~ 51  
~~offered by community boards of mental health and county boards of~~ 52  
~~mental retardation and developmental disabilities, or children~~ 53  
~~attending programs offered by head start agencies~~ passengers. The 54  
driver of any vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley overtaking 55  
the school bus shall comply with division (A) of this section. 56

(D) School buses operating on divided highways or on highways 57  
with four or more traffic lanes shall receive and discharge all 58  
~~school children, persons attending programs offered by community~~ 59  
~~boards of mental health and county boards of mental retardation~~ 60  
~~and developmental disabilities, and children attending programs~~ 61  
~~offered by head start agencies~~ passengers on their residence side 62  
of the highway. 63

(E) No school bus driver shall start the driver's bus until 64  
after any ~~child, person attending programs offered by community~~ 65  
~~boards of mental health and county boards of mental retardation~~ 66  
~~and developmental disabilities, or child attending a program~~ 67  
~~offered by a head start agency~~ passenger who may have alighted 68  
therefrom has reached a place of safety on the ~~child's or person's~~ 69  
passenger's residence side of the road. 70

(F)(1) Whoever violates division (A) of this section may be 71  
fined an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars. A person who 72  
is issued a citation for a violation of division (A) of this 73  
section is not permitted to enter a written plea of guilty and 74  
waive the person's right to contest the citation in a trial but 75  
instead must appear in person in the proper court to answer the 76  
charge. 77

(2) In addition to and independent of any other penalty 78  
provided by law, the court or mayor may impose upon an offender 79  
who violates this section a class seven suspension of the 80  
offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, 81  
temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident 82

operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of 83  
section 4510.02 of the Revised Code. When a license is suspended 84  
under this section, the court or mayor shall cause the offender to 85  
deliver the license to the court, and the court or clerk of the 86  
court immediately shall forward the license to the registrar of 87  
motor vehicles, together with notice of the court's action. 88

(G) As used in this section: 89

(1) "Head start agency" has the same meaning as in section 90  
3301.32 of the Revised Code. 91

(2) "School bus," as used in relation to children who attend 92  
a program offered by a head start agency, means a bus that is 93  
owned and operated by a head start agency, is equipped with an 94  
automatically extended stop warning sign of a type approved by the 95  
state board of education, is painted the color and displays the 96  
markings described in section 4511.77 of the Revised Code, and is 97  
equipped with amber and red visual signals meeting the 98  
requirements of section 4511.771 of the Revised Code, irrespective 99  
of whether or not the bus has fifteen or more children aboard at 100  
any time. "School bus" does not include a van owned and operated 101  
by a head start agency, irrespective of its color, lights, or 102  
markings. 103

(3) "Passenger" means any school child, person attending 104  
programs offered by community boards of mental health and county 105  
boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, or 106  
child attending a program offered by a head start agency. 107

**Sec. 4511.771.** (A)(1) Every school bus shall, in addition to 108  
any other equipment and distinctive markings required pursuant to 109  
sections 4511.76, 4511.761, 4511.764, and 4511.77 of the Revised 110  
Code, be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high as 111  
practicable, which shall display to the front two alternately 112  
flashing red lights and two alternately flashing amber lights 113

located at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing 114  
red lights and two alternately flashing amber lights located at 115  
the same level, and these lights shall be visible at five hundred 116  
feet in normal sunlight. The alternately flashing red lights shall 117  
be spaced as widely as practicable, and the alternately flashing 118  
amber lights shall be located next to them. 119

(2) On and after the effective date of this section, every 120  
new school bus that is acquired by any person to transport school 121  
children, persons attending programs offered by community boards 122  
of mental health and county boards of mental retardation and 123  
developmental disabilities, or children attending a program 124  
offered by a head start agency shall be equipped with a single 125  
white strobe light, located in the middle of the bus roof. 126

(B) Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever 127  
violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within 128  
one year of the offense, the offender previously has been 129  
convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or 130  
traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a 131  
misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the 132  
offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more 133  
predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this 134  
section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. 135

**Sec. 4513.17.** (A) Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with 136  
headlights also is equipped with any auxiliary lights or spotlight 137  
or any other light on the front thereof projecting a beam of an 138  
intensity greater than three hundred candle power, not more than a 139  
total of five of any such lights on the front of a vehicle shall 140  
be lighted at any one time when the vehicle is upon a highway. 141

(B) Any lighted light or illuminating device upon a motor 142  
vehicle, other than headlights, spotlights, signal lights, or 143  
auxiliary driving lights, that projects a beam of light of an 144

intensity greater than three hundred candle power, shall be so 145  
directed that no part of the beam will strike the level of the 146  
roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than 147  
seventy-five feet from the vehicle. 148

(C)(1) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles, 149  
except as a means for indicating a right or a left turn, or in the 150  
presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in 151  
approaching, or overtaking or passing. This prohibition does not 152  
apply to emergency vehicles, road service vehicles servicing or 153  
towing a disabled vehicle, traffic line strippers, snow plows, 154  
rural mail delivery vehicles, vehicles as provided in section 155  
4513.182 of the Revised Code, department of transportation 156  
maintenance vehicles, funeral hearses, funeral escort vehicles, 157  
and similar equipment operated by the department or local 158  
authorities, which shall be equipped with and display, when used 159  
on a street or highway for the special purpose necessitating such 160  
lights, a flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber light, but 161  
shall not display a flashing, oscillating, or rotating light of 162  
any other color, nor to vehicles or machinery permitted by section 163  
4513.11 of the Revised Code to have a flashing red light. 164

(2) When used on a street or highway, farm machinery and 165  
vehicles escorting farm machinery may be equipped with and display 166  
a flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber light, and the 167  
prohibition contained in division (C)(1) of this section does not 168  
apply to such machinery or vehicles. Farm machinery also may 169  
display the lights described in section 4513.11 of the Revised 170  
Code. 171

(D)(1) Except a person operating a public safety vehicle, as 172  
defined in division (E) of section 4511.01 of the Revised Code, or 173  
a school bus, no person shall operate, move, or park upon, or 174  
permit to stand within the right-of-way of any public street or 175  
highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with and 176

displaying a flashing red or a flashing combination red and white 177  
light, or an oscillating or rotating red light, or a combination 178  
red and white oscillating or rotating light; ~~and except,~~ 179

(2) Except a public law enforcement officer, or other person 180  
sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the state, 181  
operating a public safety vehicle when on duty, no person shall 182  
operate, move, or park upon, or permit to stand within the 183  
right-of-way of any street or highway any vehicle or equipment 184  
that is equipped with, or upon which is mounted, and displaying a 185  
flashing blue or a flashing combination blue and white light, or 186  
an oscillating or rotating blue light, or a combination blue and 187  
white oscillating or rotating light. 188

(3) Except a person operating a school bus equipped with a 189  
single white strobe light as required by section 4511.771 of the 190  
Revised Code, no person shall operate, move, or park upon, or 191  
permit to stand within the right-of-way of any public street or 192  
highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with and 193  
displaying a flashing white light that is not used in combination 194  
with a red or blue light as provided in this section. 195

(E) This section does not prohibit the use of warning lights 196  
required by law or the simultaneous flashing of turn signals on 197  
disabled vehicles or on vehicles being operated in unfavorable 198  
atmospheric conditions in order to enhance their visibility. This 199  
section also does not prohibit the simultaneous flashing of turn 200  
signals or warning lights either on farm machinery or vehicles 201  
escorting farm machinery, when used on a street or highway. 202

(F) Whoever violates this section shall be punished as 203  
provided in section 4513.99 of the Revised Code. 204

**Section 2.** That existing sections 4511.75, 4511.771, and 205  
4513.17 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 206