



Reprinted  
January 28, 2022

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## SENATE BILL No. 121

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DIGEST OF SB 121 (Updated January 27, 2022 3:06 pm - DI 106)

**Citations Affected:** IC 9-21.

**Synopsis:** School bus stop arm violation enforcement. Provides that a registered owner of a motor vehicle commits an infraction if the owner's vehicle is used to violate the school bus stop arm law. Provides a defense for a registered owner who provides certain information to law enforcement and fully cooperates with law enforcement, if: (1) the vehicle was stolen; (2) the registered owner routinely engages in the business of renting the vehicle; (3) the registered owner provided the vehicle for the use of an employee; or (4) the registered owner provides documentary evidence that the owner was out of state at the time the violation was committed. Specifies that: (1) the bureau of motor vehicles may not assess points for the infraction; and (2) an adjudication for the infraction does not create a presumption of liability in a civil action.

**Effective:** July 1, 2022.

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## Niemeyer

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January 4, 2022, read first time and referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation.  
January 25, 2022, reported favorably — Do Pass.  
January 27, 2022, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.

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SB 121—LS 6062/DI 139





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Second Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2022)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 121

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 9-21-8-52, AS AMENDED BY P.L.144-2019,  
2 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2022]: Sec. 52. (a) A person who operates a vehicle and who  
4 recklessly:  
5 (1) drives at such an unreasonably high rate of speed or at such an  
6 unreasonably low rate of speed under the circumstances as to:  
7 (A) endanger the safety or the property of others; or  
8 (B) block the proper flow of traffic;  
9 (2) passes another vehicle from the rear while on a slope or on a  
10 curve where vision is obstructed for a distance of less than five  
11 hundred (500) feet ahead;  
12 (3) drives in and out of a line of traffic, except as otherwise  
13 permitted; or  
14 (4) speeds up or refuses to give one-half (1/2) of the roadway to  
15 a driver overtaking and desiring to pass;  
16 commits a Class C misdemeanor. However, the offense is a Class A  
17 misdemeanor if it causes bodily injury to a person.

SB 121—LS 6062/DI 139



1 (b) A person who operates a vehicle and who recklessly passes a  
 2 school bus stopped on a roadway or a private road when the arm signal  
 3 device specified in IC 9-21-12-13 is in the device's extended position  
 4 commits a Class A misdemeanor. However, the offense is a Level 6  
 5 felony if it causes bodily injury to a person, and a Level 5 felony if it  
 6 causes the death of a person.

7 (c) If an offense under subsection (a) results in damage to the  
 8 property of another person, it is a Class B misdemeanor and the court  
 9 may recommend the suspension of the current driving license of the  
 10 person convicted of the offense described in subsection (a) for a fixed  
 11 period of not more than one (1) year.

12 (d) If an offense under subsection (a) causes bodily injury to a  
 13 person, the court may recommend the suspension of the driving  
 14 privileges of the person convicted of the offense described in this  
 15 subsection for a fixed period of not more than one (1) year.

16 (e) In addition to any other penalty imposed under subsection (b),  
 17 the court may suspend the person's driving privileges:

18 (1) for ninety (90) days; or

19 (2) if the person has committed at least one (1) previous offense  
 20 under this section or IC 9-21-12-1, for one (1) year.

21 **(f) Except as provided in subsection (g), the registered owner of**  
 22 **a vehicle used to pass a school bus stopped on a roadway or a**  
 23 **private road when the arm signal device specified in IC 9-21-12-13**  
 24 **is in the device's extended position commits a Class B infraction.**

25 **(g) It is a defense to an action under subsection (f) that:**

26 **(1) the vehicle was stolen from the registered owner and the**  
 27 **registered owner is able to document the theft by presenting**  
 28 **a police report;**

29 **(2) the registered owner of a vehicle involved in the violation**  
 30 **of this section routinely engages in the business of renting the**  
 31 **vehicle for periods of thirty (30) days or less;**

32 **(3) the registered owner of the vehicle involved in the violation**  
 33 **of this section is an employer who provided the vehicle for use**  
 34 **by employees in the scope of their employment; or**

35 **(4) the registered owner was out of the state at the time of the**  
 36 **violation and is able to provide documentary evidence**  
 37 **verifying the absence;**

38 **if the registered owner provides all of the information available to**  
 39 **the registered owner regarding the person who may be responsible**  
 40 **for committing the violation under subsection (f), and the**  
 41 **registered owner fully cooperates with law enforcement in the**  
 42 **investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of the person who**



- 1       **commits a violation of subsection (f).**
- 2       **(h) The bureau may not assess points under the point system for**
- 3       **an infraction committed under subsection (f).**
- 4       **(i) An adjudication for an infraction committed under**
- 5       **subsection (f) does not create a presumption of liability in a civil**
- 6       **action.**



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 121, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to SB 121 as introduced.)

CRIDER, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0

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SENATE MOTION

Madam President: I move that Senate Bill 121 be amended to read as follows:

Page 2, line 31, after "less;" delete "or".

Page 2, line 34, after "employment;" insert "**or**

**(4) the registered owner was out of the state at the time of the violation and is able to provide documentary evidence verifying the absence;**".

(Reference is to SB 121 as printed January 26, 2022.)

NIEMEYER

