

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1194

6 By: West (Rick)

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S.
9 2011, Section 12-228, which relates to lighting
10 equipment and devices for school buses and church
11 buses; requiring certain lighting equipment for
12 school buses; requiring permanent mount; providing
13 parameters for mount location; requiring continuous
14 use under certain condition; and providing an
15 effective date.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 12-228, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 12-228. A. In addition to any other equipment and
20 distinctive markings required by this title, every school bus and
21 every church bus shall be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high
22 and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which shall display
23 to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at the same
24 level and to the rear two alternately flashing red lights located at
the same level. These lights shall be visible at five hundred (500)
feet in normal sunlight.

1 B. Every school bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereof
2 plainly visible signs containing the words "SCHOOL BUS" in letters
3 not less than eight (8) inches in height, located between the
4 warning signal lights as high as possible without impairing
5 visibility of the lettering, and have no other lettering on the
6 front or rear of the vehicle, except as required by 47 C.F.R., Part
7 571.

8 C. Every church bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereof
9 plainly visible signs containing the words "CHURCH BUS" in letters
10 not less than eight (8) inches in height, located between the
11 warning signal lights as high as possible without impairing
12 visibility of the lettering. In addition, such church bus may be
13 equipped with visual signals meeting the requirements of subsection
14 A of this section.

15 D. Every school bus manufactured on or after September 1, 1992,
16 shall be equipped with a stop signal arm that complies with 49
17 C.F.R., Section 571.131.

18 E. In addition to the lights required by subsection A of this
19 section, any school bus shall be equipped with amber signal lamps
20 mounted near each of the four red lamps and at the same level but
21 closer to the vertical ~~center line~~ centerline of the bus, which
22 shall display two alternately flashing amber lights to the front and
23 two alternately flashing amber lights to the rear. These lights
24 shall be visible at five hundred (500) feet in normal sunlight.

1 These lights shall be displayed by the school bus driver at least
2 one hundred (100) feet, but not more than five hundred (500) feet,
3 before every stop at which the alternately flashing red lights
4 required by subsection A of this section will be actuated.

5 F. In addition to the lights required by subsections A and E of
6 this section, every school bus purchased and placed in service on or
7 after July 1, 2017, shall be equipped with a white strobe lamp
8 permanently mounted on the longitudinal centerline of the bus roof
9 not less than two (2) feet forward of the rear roof edge, which
10 shall be in continuous operation when school children are being
11 transported.

12 G. The State Board of Education, with the approval of the
13 Commissioner of Public Safety, is authorized to adopt standards and
14 specifications applicable to lighting equipment on and special
15 warning devices to be carried by school buses consistent with, and
16 supplemental to, the provisions of this chapter. Such standards and
17 specifications shall be identical to any Federal Motor Vehicle
18 Safety Standard which regulates the same aspect of performance of
19 the same equipment or device. Where there is no applicable Federal
20 Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, the standards and specifications
21 shall conform to the greatest extent feasible with any other
22 relevant standard issued or endorsed by federal agencies or
23 recognized standard-setting organizations.

24

1 ~~G.~~ H. During the time any school bus or church bus is
2 operating, the school bus or church bus shall have its headlights
3 activated.

4 ~~H.~~ I. It shall be unlawful to operate any red flashing warning
5 signal light on any school bus except when any said school bus is
6 stopped on a highway for the purpose of permitting school children
7 to board or discharge from said school bus.

8 ~~I.~~ J. It shall be unlawful to operate any red flashing warning
9 signal light on any church bus except when any said bus is stopped
10 on a highway for the purpose of permitting passengers to board or
11 discharge from said bus.

12 ~~J.~~ K. The use of the signal equipment described herein shall
13 impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-
14 of-way and stop for school buses, as prescribed in Section 11-705 of
15 this title, and for church buses, as prescribed in Section 11-705.1
16 of this title.

17 ~~K.~~ L. The loading lamps on school buses converted for purposes
18 other than transporting pupils to or from school shall be
19 disconnected, except for buses purchased for use by religious
20 organizations as church buses.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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