

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 19, 2015

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 SENATE BILL NO. 528

5 By: Shortey

6 [bus transportation - meeting and overtaking a
7 stopped bus - inclusions - special lights and warning
8 devices on school and church buses - effective date]

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

10 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 11-705.1, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 11-705.1. A. The driver of a vehicle meeting or
13 overtaking a church bus or bus owned and operated by a nonprofit
14 charitable organization that is stopped to take on or discharge
15 passengers, and on which the red loading signals are in operation,
16 is to stop the vehicle before it reaches the ~~church~~ bus and not
17 proceed until the loading signals are deactivated and then proceed
18 past such bus at a speed which is reasonable and with due caution
19 for the safety of such occupants.

20 B. If the church bus or bus owned and operated by a nonprofit
21 charitable organization is equipped with visual signals meeting the
22 requirements of Section 12-228 of this title, the signals shall be
23 actuated by the driver of ~~said church~~ the bus whenever, but only
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1 whenever, such vehicle is stopped on the highway for the purpose of
2 receiving or discharging passengers.

3 C. The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separate
4 roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a church bus or bus
5 owned and operated by a non-profit charitable organization which is
6 on a different roadway or when upon a controlled-access highway and
7 the ~~church~~ bus is stopped in a loading zone which is a part of or
8 adjacent to such highway and where pedestrians are not permitted to
9 cross the roadway.

10 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 12-228, is
11 amended to read as follows:

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

20 B. Every school bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereof
21 plainly visible signs containing the words "SCHOOL BUS" in letters
22 not less than eight (8) inches in height, located between the
23 warning signal lights as high as possible without impairing
24 visibility of the lettering, and have no other lettering on the

1 front or rear of the vehicle, except as required by 47 C.F.R., Part
2 571.

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

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

13 E. In addition to the lights required by subsection A of this
14 section, any school bus shall be equipped with amber signal lamps
15 mounted near each of the four red lamps and at the same level but
16 closer to the vertical center line of the bus, which shall display
17 two alternately flashing amber lights to the front and two
18 alternately flashing amber lights to the rear. These lights shall
19 be visible at five hundred (500) feet in normal sunlight. These
20 lights shall be displayed by the school bus driver at least one
21 hundred (100) feet, but not more than five hundred (500) feet,
22 before every stop at which the alternately flashing red lights
23 required by subsection A will be actuated.

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1 F. The State Board of Education, with the approval of the
2 Commissioner of Public Safety, is authorized to adopt standards and
3 specifications applicable to lighting equipment on and special
4 warning devices to be carried by school buses consistent with, and
5 supplemental to, the provisions of this chapter. Such standards and
6 specifications shall be identical to any Federal Motor Vehicle
7 Safety Standard which regulates the same aspect of performance of
8 the same equipment or device. Where there is no applicable Federal
9 Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, the standards and specifications
10 shall conform to the greatest extent feasible with any other
11 relevant standard issued or endorsed by federal agencies or
12 recognized standard-setting organizations.

13 G. During the time any school bus or church bus is operating,
14 the school bus or church bus shall have its headlights activated.

15 H. It shall be unlawful to operate any red flashing warning
16 signal light on any school bus except when any ~~said~~ such school bus
17 is stopped on a highway for the purpose of permitting school
18 children to board or discharge from ~~said~~ the school bus.

19 I. It shall be unlawful to operate any red flashing warning
20 signal light on any church bus except when any ~~said~~ such bus is
21 stopped on a highway for the purpose of permitting passengers to
22 board or discharge from ~~said~~ the bus.

23 J. The use of the signal equipment described herein shall
24 impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-

1 of-way and stop for school buses, as prescribed in Section 11-705 of
2 this title, and for church buses or buses used by nonprofit
3 charitable organizations for the purpose of transporting children,
4 as prescribed in Section 11-705.1 of this title.

5 K. The loading lamps on school buses converted for purposes
6 other than transporting pupils to or from school shall be
7 disconnected, except for buses purchased for use by religious
8 organizations as church buses or buses used by nonprofit charitable
9 organizations for the purpose of transporting children.

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
12 February 19, 2015 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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