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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 192 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, LANGERHOLC, ARGALL, LAUGHLIN, HUGHES,  
FONTANA, DUSH, COMMITTA, CAPPELLETTI, PHILLIPS-HILL, MILLER,  
BROOKS, CULVER, BREWSTER AND HUTCHINSON, OCTOBER 18, 2023

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 18, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 16 through 20, 2023, as "School Bus Safety  
2 Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation (PennDOT)  
4 participates in "National School Bus Safety Week" in conjunction  
5 with the National Association of Pupil Transportation; and

6 WHEREAS, Motorists must stop 10 feet away from school buses  
7 that have their red lights flashing and stop arm extended; and

8 WHEREAS, Motorists must stop when they are behind a school  
9 bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus  
10 is stopped; and

11 WHEREAS, Motorists following or traveling alongside a school  
12 bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing,  
13 the stop arm is withdrawn and all children have reached safety;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide  
16 rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from  
17 the school bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed

1 without stopping; and

2 WHEREAS, PennDOT provides helpful tips to motorists, parents  
3 and students to help ensure school bus safety; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania School Bus Association  
5 (PSBA), each year approximately 450,000 school buses travel an  
6 estimated 4.3 billion miles transporting roughly 23.5 million  
7 students to and from school and school-related activities; and

8 WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
9 noted in its June 2022 report (Report) that from 2011 to 2020,  
10 of the 326,149 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes, 1,009, or  
11 0.3%, were classified as school-transportation-related; and

12 WHEREAS, The Report indicated that of the fatalities  
13 associated with the aforementioned crashes, occupants of school  
14 transportation vehicles accounted for approximately 10% of  
15 fatalities, nonoccupants such as pedestrians and bicyclists  
16 accounted for approximately 20% of fatalities and occupants of  
17 other vehicles involved in these crashes accounted for  
18 approximately 70% of the total fatalities; and

19 WHEREAS, The Report stated that almost half, or 49%, of  
20 school-transportation-related fatal crashes occurred in rural  
21 areas; and

22 WHEREAS, Studies affirm that school buses represent the  
23 safest way for children to travel to and from school-related  
24 activities; and

25 WHEREAS, The outstanding safety record of school buses is due  
26 to several factors, including the enhanced vehicle safety  
27 standards that school buses must meet, the recognizable color of  
28 school buses and the ability of school bus drivers to utilize  
29 school bus lighting and signage to control traffic when children  
30 are getting on or off the school bus; and

1       WHEREAS, School bus drivers are trained to provide direction  
2 to children when crossing the road in front of the school bus,  
3 which also contributes to their safety record; and

4       WHEREAS, PSBA provides additional resources to help ensure  
5 safety of our school buses, school bus drivers and student-  
6 passengers; and

7       WHEREAS, School bus drivers are directly responsible for the  
8 safety of Pennsylvania's children as they work to bring them to  
9 their destinations safely and on time; therefore be it

10       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 16  
11 through 20, 2023, as "School Bus Safety Week" in Pennsylvania;  
12 and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage motorists, parents and  
14 students to abide by traffic laws, especially those concerning  
15 school buses, and employ strategies that help guarantee the  
16 safety of school bus passengers; and be it further

17       RESOLVED, That the Senate thank Pennsylvania's school bus  
18 drivers for their ongoing work to guarantee that student-  
19 passengers arrive at their destinations safely and on time.