

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1079**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Oropeza**

February 23, 2001

---

---

An act to add Section 24018 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1079, as amended, Oropeza. Public agency: buses: two-way communication devices.

Existing law makes it unlawful to operate any vehicle in violation of statutory equipment requirements.

This bill would require every transit bus operated by a public agency on behalf of a public agency that provides public transportation services to be equipped with a 2-way communication device, as defined, that enables the driver to contact the agency in the event of an emergency. The bill would require the devices to be maintained in good working order. *Buses operated by or on behalf of a school district would be exempted.*

Because a violation of this provision would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 24018 is added to the Vehicle Code, to  
2 read:

3 24018. (a) Every transit bus operated by a public agency or  
4 on behalf of a public agency that provides public transportation  
5 services shall be equipped with a two-way communication device  
6 that enables the driver to contact the agency in the event of an  
7 emergency. The two-way communication devices shall be  
8 maintained in good working order.

9 (b) For the purposes of this section, “two-way communication  
10 device” is a radio, cellular telephone, or other similar device  
11 permitting communication between the transit bus driver and  
12 personnel responsible for the safety of operations of the public  
13 agency, including, but not limited to, the agency’s dispatcher.

14 (c) *This section does not apply to buses operated by a school  
15 district or on behalf of a school district.*

16 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
17 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
18 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
19 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
20 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
21 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
22 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
23 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
24 Constitution.

