

**Introduced by Senator Morrow**

February 21, 2002

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An act to amend Section 22112 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1685, as introduced, Morrow. Schoolbus: warning light systems.

Existing law provides that a schoolbus driver shall operate an approved flashing amber light warning system, flashing red signal lights, and stop signal arm system, as specified. The schoolbus driver is required to do specified things when a schoolbus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils in specified locations; and may not activate the amber light warning system, flashing red signal lights, and stop signal arm system in specified locations. A violation of these provisions is a crime, punishable as specified.

This bill would provide that the schoolbus driver shall deactivate the amber light warning system after reaching a schoolbus stop; would revise the locations and circumstances with respect to which the flashing amber light warning system, flashing red signal lights, and stop signal arm system may or may not be operated; and would make clarifying changes to the provisions. By creating new crimes or changing existing crimes, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program upon local governments.

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 22112 of the Vehicle Code is amended  
2 to read:

3 22112. (a) On approach to a schoolbus stop where pupils are  
4 loading or unloading from a schoolbus, the *schoolbus* driver ~~of the~~  
5 ~~schoolbus~~ shall activate an approved ~~flashing~~ amber *warning* light  
6 ~~warning~~ system, if the schoolbus is so equipped, beginning 200  
7 feet before the schoolbus stop. *The schoolbus driver shall*  
8 *deactivate the amber warning light system after reaching the*  
9 *schoolbus stop.* The *schoolbus* driver shall operate the flashing red  
10 ~~signal lights~~ *light signal system* and stop signal arm, as required on  
11 the schoolbus, at all times when the schoolbus is stopped for the  
12 purpose of loading or unloading pupils. The flashing red *light*  
13 ~~signal lights~~ *system*, amber warning lights *system*, and stop signal  
14 ~~arm-system~~ shall not be operated at any place where traffic is  
15 controlled by a traffic officer *or at any location identified in*  
16 *subdivision (e) of this section.* The schoolbus flashing red *light*  
17 ~~signal lights~~ *system*, amber warning lights *system*, and stop signal  
18 ~~arm-system~~ shall not be operated at any other time.

19 (b) The *schoolbus* driver shall stop to load or unload pupils only  
20 at a schoolbus stop designated for pupils by the school district  
21 superintendent or authorized by the superintendent for school  
22 activity trips.

23 (c) When a schoolbus is stopped on a highway or private road  
24 for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where  
25 traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer, the driver shall ~~do all~~  
26 ~~of the following:~~

27 ~~(1) Check for approaching traffic in all directions and activate~~  
28 ~~the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm, as defined~~  
29 ~~in Section 25257, if equipped with a stop signal arm.~~

30 ~~(2) Before, before~~ opening the door, ensure that the flashing  
31 red *light signal lights* *system* and stop signal arm are activated, and  
32 that it is safe to *enter or exit* the schoolbus.



1 (d) When a schoolbus is stopped on a highway or private road  
2 for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where  
3 traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or official traffic control  
4 signal, the *schoolbus* driver shall do all of the following:

5 (1) Escort all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, or any of  
6 grades 1 to 8, inclusive, who need to cross the highway or private  
7 road *upon which the schoolbus is stopped*. The driver shall use an  
8 approved hand-held “STOP” sign while escorting all pupils.

9 (2) Require all pupils *who need to cross the highway or private*  
10 *road upon which the schoolbus is stopped* to walk in front of the  
11 bus as they cross ~~the highway or private road~~.

12 (3) Ensure that all pupils who need to cross the highway or  
13 private road *upon which the schoolbus is stopped* have crossed  
14 safely, and that all other ~~unloaded~~ pupils and pedestrians are a safe  
15 distance from the schoolbus ~~and it is safe to move~~ before setting  
16 the schoolbus in motion.

17 (e) Except at a location where pupils are loading or unloading  
18 from a schoolbus and must cross a highway or private road upon  
19 which the schoolbus is stopped, *the schoolbus driver may not*  
20 *activate the amber warning light system, the flashing red light*  
21 *signal lights system and stop signal arm requirements imposed by*  
22 ~~this section do not apply to a schoolbus driver~~ at any of the  
23 following locations:

24 (1) Schoolbus loading zones on or adjacent to school grounds  
25 or during an activity trip, if the schoolbus is lawfully *stopped or*  
26 *parked*.

27 (2) Where the schoolbus is disabled due to mechanical  
28 breakdown. *The driver of a relief bus that arrives at the scene to*  
29 *transport pupils from the disabled schoolbus shall not activate the*  
30 *amber warning light system, the flashing red light system, and stop*  
31 *signal arm*.

32 (3) Where ~~pupils require~~ *a pupil requires physical assistance*  
33 *from the driver or authorized attendant to board or leave the*  
34 *schoolbus and providing the assistance extends the length of time*  
35 *the schoolbus is stopped beyond the time required to load or*  
36 *unload a pupil that does not require physical assistance*.

37 (4) Where the roadway surface on which the bus is stopped is  
38 partially or completely covered by snow or ice and requiring traffic  
39 to stop would pose a safety hazard *as determined by the schoolbus*  
40 *motor carrier*.



1 (5) On a state highway with a posted speed limit of 55 miles per  
2 hour or higher where the schoolbus is completely off the main  
3 traveled portion of the highway.

4 (6) Any location determined by a school district, with the  
5 approval of the Department of the California Highway Patrol, to  
6 present a traffic or safety hazard.

7 (f) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, the  
8 Department of the California Highway Patrol may require the  
9 activation of an approved flashing amber ~~light~~ warning *light*  
10 system, if the schoolbus is so equipped, or the flashing red ~~signal~~  
11 light *signal system* and stop signal arm, as required on the  
12 schoolbus, at any location where the department determines that  
13 the activation is necessary for the safety of school pupils loading  
14 or unloading from a schoolbus.

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

