WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2010

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
House Bill No. 4223

(By Delegates Klempa, Hutchens, Schoen, Ferro, Hamilton, Ennis, Brown, Varner, Ellem, Pethel and Caputo)

Passed March 13, 2010

In Effect Ninety Days From Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact §17C-12-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to increasing the safety of school children that use school buses; increasing the penalties for overtaking and passing a school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving and discharging children; authorizing the mounting of cameras on school buses; and requesting an educational information campaign on school bus safety.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §17C-12-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 12. SPECIAL STOPS REQUIRED.

§17C-12-7. Overtaking and passing school bus; penalties; signs and warning lights upon buses; requirements for sale of buses; mounting of cameras; educational information campaign; limitation on idling.
(a) The driver of a vehicle, upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus which has stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children, shall stop the vehicle before reaching the school bus when there is in operation on the school bus flashing warning signal lights, as referred to in section eight of this article, and the driver may not proceed until the school bus resumes motion, or is signaled by the school bus driver to proceed or the visual signals are no longer actuated. This section applies wherever the school bus is receiving or discharging children including, but not limited to, any street, highway, parking lot, private road or driveway: *Provided*, that the driver of a vehicle upon a controlled access highway need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on a different roadway or adjacent to the highway and where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.

(b) Any driver acting in violation of subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction for a first offense, shall be fined not less than $150 or more than $500, or confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined. Upon conviction of a second violation of subsection (a), the driver shall be fined $500, or confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined. Upon conviction of a third or subsequent violation of subsection (a), the driver shall be fined $500, and confined not less than twenty-four hours in jail but not more than six months.

(c) In addition to the penalties prescribed in subsections (b) of this section, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon conviction, suspend the driver’s license of the person so convicted:

(1) Of a first offense under subsection (b) of this section, for a period of thirty days;
(2) Of a second offense under subsection (b) of this section, for a period of ninety days; or

(3) Of a third or subsequent offense under subsection (b) of this section, for a period of one hundred and eighty days.

d) Any driver of a vehicle who willfully violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section and the violation causes serious bodily injury to any person other than the driver, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be confined in a state correctional facility not less than one year nor more than three years and fined not less than $500 nor more than $2,000.

e) Any driver of a vehicle who willfully violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, and the violation causes death, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be confined in a state correctional facility not less than one year nor more than ten years and fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $3,000.

(f) Every bus used for the transportation of school children shall bear upon the front and rear of the bus a plainly visible sign containing the words “school bus” in letters not less than eight inches in height. When a contract school bus is being operated upon a highway for purposes other than the actual transportation of children either to or from school, all markings on the contract school bus indicating “school bus” shall be covered or concealed. Any school bus sold or transferred to another owner by a county board of education, agency or individual shall have all flashing warning lights disconnected and all lettering removed or permanently obscured, except when sold or transferred for the transportation of school children.

(g) Every county board of education is hereby authorized to mount a camera on any school bus for the purpose of enforcing this section or for any other lawful purpose.
(h) To the extent that state, federal or other funds are available, the State Police shall conduct an information campaign to educate drivers concerning the provisions of this section and the importance of school bus safety.

(i) The State Board of Education shall promulgate a rule in accordance with the provisions of article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code governing the idling of school buses.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 1st day of April, 2010.

Governor