

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 600

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON

SCHOOLS/TRANSPORTATION: Prohibits school bus drivers in certain parishes from picking up or dropping off children at school while the bus is in a lane of traffic

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34), relative to the loading and unloading of school  
3 busses at schools in certain parishes; to provide relative to adoption of policies and  
4 procedures by school governing authorities regarding such loading and unloading;  
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §158. School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators;  
9 alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus turnarounds

10 \* \* \*

11 J.(1) The governing authority of each public school in a parish that contains  
12 a municipality with a population of three hundred thousand or more persons  
13 according to the latest federal decennial census shall adopt policies and procedures  
14 to prohibit a school bus driver from loading or unloading students at the school while  
15 the bus is in a traffic lane and to require that such loading and unloading be done on  
16 the shoulder of the road, in a school parking lot, or other appropriate off-road  
17 location at the school as determined by the governing authority.

18 (2) The prohibition in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply if the  
19 shoulder of a municipal road is the only available alternative and the municipality

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 has not made the shoulder available by designating that area for loading and  
2 unloading students during designated school zone hours.

3 \* \* \*

4 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

5 \* \* \*

6 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
7 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
8 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
9 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
10 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
11 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
12 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

13 \* \* \*

14 (34) School bus loading and unloading provisions, R.S. 17:158(J).

15 \* \* \*

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Abramson

HB No. 600

**Abstract:** Requires certain public school governing authorities and charter schools to adopt policies prohibiting school bus drivers from loading and unloading students while a bus is in a traffic lane except under certain circumstances.

Present law (R.S. 17:158) requires public school boards to provide a student free transportation to and from school if the student lives within the board's jurisdiction and more than one mile from the school. Further authorizes a school board to provide free transportation to students who live within one mile of the school, if the board determines that conditions warrant such free transportation. Present law further restricts the ability of the school board to eliminate or reduce such free transportation services. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public school, including charter schools, in any parish with a municipality having a population of 300,000 or more persons to adopt policies to prohibit the loading or unloading of students from a school bus at a school while the bus is in a traffic lane and to provide for such loading and unloading on the shoulder of the road, in a school parking lot, or other appropriate off-road location. Provides that such prohibition shall not apply when the shoulder of a municipal road is the only

available alternative and the municipality has not made the shoulder available by designating that area for loading and unloading students during designated school zone hours.

(Adds R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Provides that the proposed law prohibition does not apply if the shoulder of a municipal road is the only available alternative and the municipality has not made it available for loading and unloading students during designated school zone hours.