

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 897

PRINTER NO. 1095

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Motor License Fund
School Bus Safety Grant Program Account
Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account

DATE INTRODUCED

September 14, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Baker

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 897 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to enhance the safe transportation of school children by establishing new traffic rules and strengthening penalties for overtaking a school bus.

Section 1535 (relating to schedule of convictions and points) is amended by adding a two-point assessment to an individual's driving record for failure to proceed past school bus with caution and prepare to stop when amber signal lights are flashing and a five-point assessment and a 60-day suspension for failure to stop for school bus transporting disabled persons.

Section 3345 (relating to meeting or overtaking school bus) is amended by extending the stopping distance requirement from 10 feet to 15 feet before reaching the school bus when the red signal lights on the school bus are flashing and the side stop signal arms are activated.

Additionally, this legislation implements the following tiered penalty systems:

- 1) Overtaking a school bus with flashing red lights: A fine of no less than \$250 and no more than \$500 and a \$35 surcharge for a first offense and a fine of no less than \$500 and a \$35 surcharge for a second or subsequent offense.
- 2) Failure to proceed past school bus with caution when flashing amber lights: A fine of no less than \$100 and a \$35 surcharge and a fine of no less than \$250 and a \$35 surcharge for a second or subsequent offense.

The above-mentioned penalties also require the driver to attend a driver improvement school or undergo a special examination.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (department), enactment of this legislation will result in a total fiscal impact of approximately \$526,000 in Fiscal Year 2023-24. These costs are as follows:

- Revisions to the School Bus Manual (Pub117), Drivers Manual (Pub95) and the knowledge test will total \$190,000. The Driver's Manual alone will cost approximately \$188,000 due to the translation and publication of this manual in 25 languages;
- One additional Driver Safety Examiner and Clerk at an annual cost of \$191,000 due to an expected increase in the number of individuals attending approximately three additional classes per month; and
- Computer system revisions at a cost of \$145,000.

Additional revenue accruing to the School Bus Safety Grant Program Account and the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account will be dependent on the number of offenses.