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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5891**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2024 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      68th Legislature                      2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Boehnke, Lovick, Keiser, Liias, Mullet, Torres, Wagoner, Warnick, C. Wilson, and J. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/24.

1            AN ACT Relating to protecting the safety and security of students  
2 and maintaining order within school buses by designating trespassing  
3 on a school bus as a criminal offense; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 9A.52 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    This act may be known and cited as the  
7 Richard Lenhart act.

8            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 9A.52  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10            (1) A person is guilty of school bus trespass if he or she  
11 knowingly and maliciously:

12            (a) Enters or remains unlawfully in a school bus;

13            (b) Does any other act that creates a substantial risk of harm to  
14 passengers or the driver; and

15            (c) Causes a substantial interruption or impairment to services  
16 rendered by the school bus.

17            (2) As used in this section, "school bus" means any vehicle  
18 owned, leased, or operated by a public school district, a religious  
19 or private school, a private entity contracted with a school

1 district, or educational institution for the purpose of transporting  
2 students to and from school or school-related activities.

3 (3) School bus trespass is a gross misdemeanor.

4 (4) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to any of the  
5 following:

6 (a) Students enrolled in the school which is being serviced by  
7 the school bus;

8 (b) Law enforcement officers or other authorized personnel  
9 engaged in the performance of their official duties;

10 (c) Individuals with written consent from the school district or  
11 educational institution allowing them to enter or remain on the  
12 school bus; and

13 (d) Emergency situations where entering the bus is necessary to  
14 protect the safety or well-being of students or others.

15 (5) Local law enforcement agencies shall have the authority to  
16 enforce the provisions of this act. School districts and educational  
17 institutions shall collaborate with local law enforcement to  
18 establish protocols and procedures to ensure effective enforcement of  
19 this act.

20 (6) School districts and educational institutions shall implement  
21 educational programs and awareness campaigns to educate students,  
22 parents, and the community about the importance of maintaining safety  
23 and security on school buses. These educational programs shall  
24 emphasize the potential consequences of school bus trespassing in  
25 accordance with this act.

26 (7) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
27 specific purpose, school districts and educational institutions shall  
28 affix placards warning of the consequences of violating subsection  
29 (1) of this section on the outside of all public school buses in a  
30 manner easily visible for all to see.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any provision of this act or its  
32 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
33 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
34 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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