

Transportation Provisions Passed During 2017 Legislative Session

Crime Bill—HF 470 (Regular Session)

Article 3, Section 18 (Page 40)—Clarifies that board a bus by a non-authorized person constitutes criminal trespass under MS 609.605.

Transportation Bill—HF 3 (Special Session)

Article 3, Section 46 (Page 60)—Allows Head Start bus that is equipped as a school bus to be school bus yellow.

Article 3, Section 50 (Pages 62-63)—Language from Representative Halverson's bill—regular session HF 455—regarding the use of eight-way lamps in turn lanes. Issue arose from difficult stop in cul-de-sac in Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan school district. Rule change to match new statute ordered in Article 3, Section 129 (Page 111).

Article 3, Section 54 (Page 64-65)—School bus vehicle standards update to national standards as they pertain to strobe lights. First carried in Representative Zerwas' HF 994. All national standards language was first introduced as part of this bill.

Article 3, Section 55 (Page 65)—Also from Representative Halverson's bill. Language comes from an amendment offered by Representative McDonald who developed the language with the bicycle lobby. Allows school buses to load and unload in far right lane.

Article 3, Section 56 (Page 66)—Raises fine for stop arm violation from \$300 to \$500. Language comes HF 380, which was introduced by Representative Dean Urdahl.

Article 3, Section 57 (Page 66)—Technical change to national standards adoption.

Article 3, Section 58 (Page 66-67)—Official language adopting new national standards.

Article 3, Section 59 (Page 67)—Provides for on-going approval of new national standards when developed without legislative approval. Legislature can opt out of new standards, but there will no longer be a need to pass legislation every time new standards are developed.

Article 3, Section 60 (Page 67)—School bus body manufacturer or school bus dealer must provide preliminary certification to DPS upon request.

Article 3, Section 61 (Page 67-68)—National standards adoption as it relates to school bus floor construction.

Article 3, Section 62 (Page 68)—National standards adoption as it relates to insulation

Article 3, Section 63 (Page 68)—National standards adoption as it pertains to window behind bus entrance door. It no longer must be made of thermal glass.

Article 3, Section 64 (Page 69)—National standards adoption as it relates to mounting of cameras or video surveillance system. Old standard limited extension to 3 inches. New standard is 3.5 inches.

Article 3, Section 65 (Pages 69-70)—Additional national standards language pertaining to strobe lights.

Article 3, Section 144 (d) (Page 121)—Repeals MS 169.4502, Subd. 5 as part of update to new national standards. Language dealt with battery requirements.

Education Bill—HF 2 (Special Session)

Article 1, Section 7 (Pages 5-9, New language on Page 8)—Provides funding for students who are awaiting foster care in a “shelter care facility” through the special education transportation category.

Article 1, Section 13 (Pages 11-12)—Provides adjustment of 18.2% of the difference between what a district expends for transportation and what is provided through the 4.66% of the general education formula and transportation sparsity.

Article 2, Section 37 (Page 38)—Commissioner must approve unreimbursed transportation costs as they pertain to students in recovery programs.

Article 2, Section 54 (Page 71)—Creates pilot program for students in foster care. Program will include transportation issues. There will be one pilot and the pilot will receive \$1 million. Pilot program must report back to the Legislature by February 1, 2018.

Propane Buses

A bill was introduced in both the House and Senate to use a portion of the money coming to Minnesota in the Volkswagen settlement. The bills did not become law, as the Legislature took advice from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to not come forward with any proposals to direct the revenue to a particular purpose. There is fear that if the lawyers handling the settlement did not support what the Legislature had mandated, Minnesota may lose a portion of the revenue due to be distributed.