

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1039

Chairperson: Senator Deb Fischer

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2012

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The safety of children boarding and departing a school bus is crucial. LB 1039 increases the penalties for violating school bus passing laws by mandating the maximum \$500 fine under a Class IV misdemeanor and requires three points be assessed on the driver's license. Currently, a person violating school bus passing laws is guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor, a minimum fine of \$100 and a maximum fine of \$500, and one point is assessed on the driver's license.

LB 1039 also clarifies warning signal lights and stop signal lights by identifying the appropriate signal color of "yellow" or "red."

Additionally, language is stricken that allows a bus driver to signal traffic to proceed when the bus is stopped and the stop signal arm is extended. Thus, the driver of a motor vehicle shall remain stopped only until the stop signal arm is retracted and the bus resumes motion.

A school bus may stop to load or unload students if a sign is displayed indicating a school bus stop is ahead. This change takes into account bus stops where there is no opportunity to provide for four hundred feet of visibility as in current law because a bus stop cannot be relocated, such as a designated bus stop for a young child who cannot walk greater distances.

When the school bus is used other than to transfer students to and from school, current law requires school bus markings to be concealed. LB 1039 adds transportation of children to and from school-sponsored activities as a purpose not requiring concealment of school bus markings.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Lydia Brasch

