Introduced by Hilkemann, 4.
Read first time January 05, 2017
Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to school transportation; to amend section 79-609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to prohibit use of an interactive wireless communication device by a school bus operator as prescribed; and to repeal the original section.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. Section 79-609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

79-609 (1) The school board or board of education, after consultation with a member of the Nebraska State Patrol, shall determine the number of passengers that may be safely transported in each bus.

(2)(a) Any company or agency that provides transportation of pupils by school bus and contracts directly with the pupils or their parents, (b) the school board or board of education of the public schools, and (c) the governing authority of any private, denominational, or parochial school in this state shall provide, at least twice during each school year to each pupil who is transported in a school bus, instruction in safe riding practice and participation in emergency evacuation drills.

(3) The operator of a school bus equipped with an occupant protection system as defined in section 60-6,265 shall wear such system whenever the vehicle is in motion.

(4) This subsection does not apply to an operator of a school bus if section 60-6,179.02 applies. The operator of a school bus, including any school bus which transports pupils by direct contract with the pupils or their parents and not owned by or under contract with a school district or nonpublic school, shall not, whenever the vehicle is in motion, use any type of interactive wireless communication device as defined in section 60-470.02. This subsection does not apply to any dispatch communication device.

Sec. 2. Original section 79-609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.