

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

HOUSE BILL 1194

By: West (Rick)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Section 12-228, which relates to lighting equipment and devices for school buses and church buses; requiring certain lighting equipment for school buses; requiring permanent mount; providing parameters for mount location; requiring continuous use under certain condition; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 12-228, is amended to read as follows:

Section 12-228. A. In addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this title, every school bus and every church bus shall be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which shall display to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level. These lights shall be visible at five hundred (500) feet in normal sunlight.

1 B. Every school bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereof
2 plainly visible signs containing the words "SCHOOL BUS" in letters
3 not less than eight (8) inches in height, located between the
4 warning signal lights as high as possible without impairing
5 visibility of the lettering, and have no other lettering on the
6 front or rear of the vehicle, except as required by 47 C.F.R., Part
7 571.

8 C. Every church bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereof
9 plainly visible signs containing the words "CHURCH BUS" in letters
10 not less than eight (8) inches in height, located between the
11 warning signal lights as high as possible without impairing
12 visibility of the lettering. In addition, such church bus may be
13 equipped with visual signals meeting the requirements of subsection
14 A of this section.

15 D. Every school bus manufactured on or after September 1, 1992,
16 shall be equipped with a stop signal arm that complies with 49
17 C.F.R., Section 571.131.

18 E. In addition to the lights required by subsection A of this
19 section, any school bus shall be equipped with amber signal lamps
20 mounted near each of the four red lamps and at the same level but
21 closer to the vertical ~~center line~~ centerline of the bus, which
22 shall display two alternately flashing amber lights to the front and
23 two alternately flashing amber lights to the rear. These lights
24 shall be visible at five hundred (500) feet in normal sunlight.

1 These lights shall be displayed by the school bus driver at least
2 one hundred (100) feet, but not more than five hundred (500) feet,
3 before every stop at which the alternately flashing red lights
4 required by subsection A of this section will be actuated.

5 F. In addition to the lights required by subsections A and E of
6 this section, every school bus shall be equipped with a white strobe
7 lamp permanently mounted on the longitudinal centerline of the bus
8 roof not less than two (2) feet forward of the rear roof edge, which
9 shall be in continuous operation when school children are being
10 transported.

11 G. The State Board of Education, with the approval of the
12 Commissioner of Public Safety, is authorized to adopt standards and
13 specifications applicable to lighting equipment on and special
14 warning devices to be carried by school buses consistent with, and
15 supplemental to, the provisions of this chapter. Such standards and
16 specifications shall be identical to any Federal Motor Vehicle
17 Safety Standard which regulates the same aspect of performance of
18 the same equipment or device. Where there is no applicable Federal
19 Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, the standards and specifications
20 shall conform to the greatest extent feasible with any other
21 relevant standard issued or endorsed by federal agencies or
22 recognized standard-setting organizations.

1 ~~G.~~ H. During the time any school bus or church bus is
2 operating, the school bus or church bus shall have its headlights
3 activated.

4 ~~H.~~ I. It shall be unlawful to operate any red flashing warning
5 signal light on any school bus except when any said school bus is
6 stopped on a highway for the purpose of permitting school children
7 to board or discharge from said school bus.

8 ~~I.~~ J. It shall be unlawful to operate any red flashing warning
9 signal light on any church bus except when any said bus is stopped
10 on a highway for the purpose of permitting passengers to board or
11 discharge from said bus.

12 ~~J.~~ K. The use of the signal equipment described herein shall
13 impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-
14 of-way and stop for school buses, as prescribed in Section 11-705 of
15 this title, and for church buses, as prescribed in Section 11-705.1
16 of this title.

17 ~~K.~~ L. The loading lamps on school buses converted for purposes
18 other than transporting pupils to or from school shall be
19 disconnected, except for buses purchased for use by religious
20 organizations as church buses.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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