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HOUSE BILL NO. 1537

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 5, 2023

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-1090 of the Code of Virginia, relating to warning devices on school buses; use before proposed stop.

Patron—Jenkins

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-1090 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 46.2-1090. Warning devices on school buses; other buses; use thereof; penalties.**

Every bus used for the principal purpose of transporting school children shall be equipped with a warning device of such type as may be prescribed by the State Board of Education after consultation with the Superintendent of State Police. Such a warning device shall indicate when such bus is either (i) stopped or about to stop to take on or discharge children, the elderly, or mentally or physically handicapped persons or (ii) stopped or about to stop for another such bus, when approaching from any direction, that is stopped or about to stop to take on or discharge any such persons. Such warning device shall be used and in operation for at least ~~100~~ 200 feet before any proposed stop of such bus if the lawful speed limit is less than ~~thirty-five~~ 35 miles per hour, and for at least ~~200~~ 500 feet before any proposed stop of such bus if the lawful speed limit is ~~thirty-five~~ 35 miles per hour or more.

For any new bus placed into service on or after July 1, 2007, such warning devices, at a minimum, shall include a nonsequential system of red traffic warning lights, a warning sign with flashing lights, and a crossing control arm such that when the bus door is opened, the red warning lights, warning sign with flashing lights, and crossing control arm are automatically activated.

Failure of a warning device to function on any school bus shall not relieve any person operating a motor vehicle from his duty to stop as provided in §§ 46.2-844 and 46.2-859.

Any person operating such bus who fails or refuses to equip such vehicle being driven by him with such equipment, or who fails to use such warning devices in the operation of such vehicle shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Transit buses used to transport school children in the City of Hampton may be equipped with an advisory sign that extends from the left side of the bus and displays the words: "CAUTION-STUDENTS." Such sign may be equipped with not more than two warning lights of a type approved for use by the Superintendent of State Police.

INTRODUCED

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