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Overview

This bill relates to school bus lighting and visibility. It modifies school bus lighting regulations to include school bus supplemental warning systems (that provide additional warning and motorist stopping lights), requires funds to be allocated from long-term facilities maintenance revenue, and makes various technical changes regarding motor vehicle lights.

Article 1: Supplemental Warning System

Overview

This articles regulates additional warning light systems on school buses, which would accompany the current system of flashing amber signals (used to warn motorists when a bus is going to stop) and flashing red signals and stop-arm (used to stop motorists when school children are boarding or exiting a school bus).

- 1 Supplemental warning system.** Authorizes school buses to be equipped with supplemental flashing lights or electronic signs that meet Department of Public Safety specifications.
- 2 Supplemental warning system.** Requires school buses manufactured on or after August 1, 2021, to be equipped with supplemental flashing lights or changeable electronic message signs that meet Department of Public Safety specifications. Directs the department to establish the specifications, specifies topics that must be covered, and requires specification development based on research and consultation with stakeholders.

Section

Article 2: Finance

Overview

This article requires a school district to annually set aside between \$2 and \$5 per pupil from its long-term facilities maintenance revenue for certain bus safety costs, including the costs of school bus supplemental warning systems. This article also allows a school district to spend its safe schools revenue on certain bus safety costs including the costs of retrofitting existing buses with a supplemental warning systems and for the costs of supplemental warning systems on newly purchased buses.

- 1 **Long-term facilities maintenance revenue.** Deletes obsolete language.
- 2 **Long-term facilities maintenance revenue for a charter school.** Deletes obsolete language.
- 3 **Facilities plan.** Requires a school district's long term facilities plan to include provisions improving school bus safety and visibility.
- 4 **Long-term facilities maintenance equalization revenue.** Removes obsolete language.
- 5 **Long-term facilities maintenance equalized levy.** Removes obsolete language.
- 6 **Long-term facilities maintenance unequalized levy.** Removes obsolete language.
- 7 **Long-term facilities maintenance equalized aid.** Removes obsolete language.
- 8 **Allowed uses for long-term facilities maintenance revenue.** Includes school bus safety expenses, including the costs associated with supplemental warning systems, in the eligible uses of long-term facilities maintenance revenue. Requires a school district to annually reserve between \$2 and \$5 per pupil of its long-term facilities maintenance revenue for school bus supplemental warning systems. Requires a school district that contracts for pupil transportation to transfer the reserved revenue to its bus contractor to reimburse the contractor for the costs of supplemental warning systems. Suspends this reserve when a school district's bus fleet is equipped with a supplemental warning system.
- 9 **Safe schools levy.** Allows a school district to spend its safe schools revenue on certain bus safety costs including the costs of retrofitting buses with a supplemental warning system and for the costs of supplemental warning systems on newly purchased buses.

Section

Article 3: Conforming and Technical Changes

Overview

This article contains various technical and conforming changes, including changes to accommodate supplemental warning systems on school buses and to reorganize some motor vehicle lighting provisions.

- 1 **White strobe lamps on certain buses transporting children.** Makes technical changes, to eliminate redundancies and centralize a provision on authority to use strobe lamps.
- 2 **Restrictions on appearance; misdemeanor.** Makes conforming and technical changes.
- 3 **Identification.** Authorizes use of a changeable electronic message sign instead of specified static text on the rear of a school bus, if it is used in conjunction with school bus warning and stop lighting and meets the specifications for supplemental warning systems.
- 4 **Lights or reflectors required.** Makes technical changes, to move provisions on white lights and flashing lights. (The language being stricken is substantially reproduced in other sections of statutes.)
- 5 **Maintenance.** Makes technical changes, including to move a provision on glaring lights. (The language being stricken is substantially reproduced in another section of statutes.)
- 6 **Flashing lights; glaring lights.** Makes conforming and technical changes, including to centralize restrictions on flashing and glaring lights.
- 7 **White light.** Makes conforming, technical, and clarifying changes, to create a centralized provision on when a vehicle can display white lights. (This includes language being reproduced from another section of statutes.)
- 8 **Strobe lamp.** Modifies the minimum intensity of authorized strobe lamps on vehicles to be based on an engineering standard produced by SAE International, instead of referencing a candela measure of light output. Makes technical changes.