

ASSEMBLY, No. 1661

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 1996

By Assemblyman ARNONE

1 AN ACT concerning pupil transportation and supplementing chapter
2 3B of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Current regulations on pupil transportation adopted by the
9 Department of Education require that side windows on school buses
10 be capable of opening a minimum of nine inches.

11 b. Several accidents, including one recent fatality, could have been
12 prevented by restricting the size of the window opening to make it
13 more difficult for children to extend their limbs or heads outside of the
14 school bus.

15 c. Since current law requires an ample number of emergency school
16 bus exits, including two emergency roof exits, two side emergency
17 window exits, and an emergency door exit, the addition of window
18 stops on windows that are not part of emergency exits will not reduce
19 the required level of school bus safety in an emergency.

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21 2. Each full side window of a school bus, other than a push out
22 emergency exit window, shall be equipped with a stop or otherwise
23 modified or manufactured to permit it to be opened no more than six
24 inches in the vertical direction. As used in this act, "school bus" shall
25 mean any bus used to transport children to and from school, regardless
26 of when it was put into service.

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28 3. This act shall take effect immediately and be applicable to buses
29 transporting children in the school year beginning in September, 1997.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill requires that window stops be installed on the side
35 windows of all school buses used to transport pupils or that the
36 windows be otherwise modified to prevent them from being lowered
37 more than six inches. This requirement will be applicable to all school

1 buses, regardless of when placed in service, beginning with the 1997-
2 98 school year.

3 The bill does not require window stops on side windows which are
4 required to be pushed out as emergency exits.

5 The requirements of the bill will apply to all school buses used to
6 transport pupils to and from school.

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11 Requires window stops on side windows of school buses.