

ASSEMBLY, No. 5630

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman HEATHER SIMMONS

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Concerns school bus safety.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning school bus safety, amending P.L.2015, c.266,
2 and supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2015, c.266 (C.39:3B-26) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. **【Each】** Except as otherwise provided in section 2 of
10 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
11 each school bus, as that term is defined in R.S.39:1-1, shall be
12 equipped with a sensor to **【determine】** detect the presence of
13 objects in the front or back of the bus.

14 The design and installation of the sensor shall conform to
15 regulations to be promulgated by the State Board of Education, in
16 consultation with the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
17 Vehicle Commission in the Department of Transportation, pursuant
18 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
19 1 et seq.).
20 (cf: P.L.2015, c.266, s.2)

21
22 2. (New section) a. As used in this section:

23 "Pedestrian" means the same as that term is defined in R.S.39:1-
24 1.

25 "School bus" means the same as that term is defined in R.S.39:1-
26 1.

27 "School bus danger zone" means the radius surrounding a school
28 bus, which radius is to be determined by the Department of
29 Education pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

30 "Sensor" means the school bus sensor described in subsection b.
31 of this section and any related safety technology that may be
32 required to support the functionality of the school bus sensor.

33 b. Each school bus purchased or manufactured after the
34 effective date of this section shall be equipped with a sensor to
35 detect the presence of pedestrians and other objects in the school
36 bus danger zone. At a minimum, the sensor shall be capable of
37 providing the school bus driver with a live, three-dimensional
38 panoramic view of the school bus danger zone.

39 c. Any images captured or recorded by a sensor shall only be
40 used for school transportation safety purposes, including crash
41 investigations, school bus driver training, and administrative or law
42 enforcement review, and shall not be used for surveillance
43 purposes.

44 d. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Chief
45 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission,

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
2 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to
3 implement the provisions of this section. At a minimum, the rules
4 and regulations shall establish the radius surrounding a school bus
5 that constitutes the school bus danger zone and procedures for:

6 (1) maintaining the sensor;

7 (2) reporting any technological or mechanical sensor failure that
8 occurred while a school bus was being operated or any other
9 identified school bus safety concerns; and

10 (3) securing, protecting, and purging any images captured or
11 recorded by the sensor.

12
13 3. (New section) a. The Office of School Bus Safety in the
14 Department of Education shall research the feasibility of retrofitting
15 school buses that are not subject to the requirements set forth in
16 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
17 as this bill) to voluntarily comply with the requirements of section 2
18 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
19 bill). The office may collaborate with any other State department or
20 agency, board, commission, corporation, or authority as may be
21 necessary to conduct its research.

22 b. Within one year of the effective date of this section, the
23 office shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
24 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), detailing
25 the findings from the research conducted pursuant to subsection a.
26 of this section and any recommendations for future legislative or
27 regulatory action.

28
29 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after the date of
30 enactment. However, the Department of Education, in consultation
31 with the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
32 Commission, may take any anticipatory administrative action prior
33 to the effective date as shall be necessary to implement the
34 provisions of this act.

35 36 37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill establishes new requirements for school bus safety
40 features. Specifically, the bill requires each school bus purchased
41 or manufactured 180 days after the bill’s enactment to be equipped
42 with a sensor to detect the presence of pedestrians and other objects
43 in the school bus danger zone. At a minimum, the sensor is to be
44 capable of providing the school bus driver with a live, three-
45 dimensional panoramic view of the school bus danger zone. The
46 bill provides that any images captured or recorded by a sensor may
47 only be used for school transportation safety purposes and are not to
48 be used for surveillance purposes.

1 The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE), in
2 collaboration with the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
3 Vehicle Commission, to adopt rules and regulations necessary to
4 implement the provisions of the bill. At a minimum, the rules and
5 regulations are to establish the radius surrounding a school bus that
6 constitutes the school bus danger zone and procedures for: (1)
7 maintaining the sensor; (2) reporting any technological or
8 mechanical sensor failure that occurred while a school bus was
9 being operated or any other identified school bus safety concerns;
10 and (3) securing, protecting, and purging any images captured or
11 recorded by the sensor.

12 Finally, the bill requires the Office of School Bus Safety (office)
13 to research the feasibility of retrofitting school buses that are not
14 subject to the new sensor requirements established by the bill to
15 voluntarily comply with those requirements. The bill permits the
16 office to collaborate with any other State department or agency,
17 board, commission, corporation, or authority as may be necessary to
18 conduct its research. The office is required to submit a report on its
19 research findings, including the feasibility of retrofitting school
20 buses on a voluntary basis, and any recommendations for future
21 legislative or regulatory action, to the Governor and Legislature.

22 Under current law, each school bus is required to be equipped
23 with a sensor to detect the presence of objects in the front or back
24 of the bus.