

SENATE No. 2267

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act enhancing school bus safety.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul W. Mark

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and
Hampshire*

SENATE No. 2267

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2267) of Paul W. Mark for legislation relative to school bus safety. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2334 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act enhancing school bus safety.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known as “Summer’s Law”.

2 SECTION 2. Section 7B of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
3 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end of the first paragraph, after the word
4 “year”, in line 137, the following:-

5 “; (19) Each school bus shall be equipped with at least two sensors on or near school bus
6 doors, which shall determine and notify the operator of a school bus that there are no persons
7 located within a minimum area of twelve feet from school bus doors before and after the doors
8 close when a school bus has stopped to pick up or drop off school pupils. Each school bus shall
9 also be equipped on all sides of the bus with front, rear, and lateral sensors to determine and
10 notify the operator that there are no persons located within a minimum area of twelve feet from

all sides of the bus. The school bus operator shall not proceed any further after stopping to load or discharge school pupils until the operator is notified by the sensors that there are no persons located at not less than twelve feet from all sides, including doors, of the bus. All sensor systems shall include, but not be limited to, radar, video, sound, or infrared technology that shall be capable of detecting the presence of persons within a minimum area of twelve feet from a sensor's placement on a bus, extending from all sides of a bus and the bus doors. Sensor systems shall also include an audible and visual alert signal placed within the interior of the bus, within the immediate presence of the operator, to alert the operator when a person is detected within a sensor's designated minimum area of twelve feet.

SECTION 3. Section 8A of said chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended in the second paragraph, line 46, by inserting after the word "registrar" the following:-

"The pre-service school bus driver training program shall include a special unit pertaining to the pickup and drop off of school pupils and school bus danger zones, which shall consist of a minimum of 3 hours of behind-the-wheel training and a minimum of 3 hours of classroom training."

SECTION 4. Said second paragraph of said section 8A is hereby further amended, in line 55, by inserting after the word "energy" the following:-

"The in-service school bus driver training program shall consist of not less than 10 hours of training annually, provided further that the program include a special unit pertaining to the pickup and drop off of school pupils and school bus danger zones. The special unit of training

32 shall consist of a minimum of 2 hours of behind-the-wheel training and a minimum of 2 hours of
33 classroom training.”

34 SECTION 5. The commissioner of education in collaboration with the registrar shall
35 promulgate necessary rules, regulations, or procedures for the administration of this act.