



Trina Morris - MAPT
Support HB 4201-4204

HOUSE BILLS 4201 & 4203

In 2014, our county came together and started a countywide safety meeting that included school superintendents, law enforcement, emergency management, first responders and the transportation department.

During this process of working to make our schools safer, we looked at our school buses. Our school bus drivers go to areas some of us would not be comfortable driving through during the daytime hours. During this time, they are often alone where they open the door multiple times to receive students to go to school. This can, and has, caused concern for the safety of our students and our school bus drivers. Here are a couple of examples:

- 1. Unknown male walking down middle of the road towards a bus driver***
- 2. Unknown male driver blocked the roadway of a school bus and proceeded to get out of his vehicle and come around to try and talk to the school bus driver***
- 3. Unknown person blocked a school bus drivers path on the roadway in the early morning hours***
- 4. Female parent boarded bus to reprimand kids that had involvement with her children over the weekend***
- 5. Male parent entered bus and verbally abused the driver in front of the children of the bus at the time, driver kept requesting the parent to get off of the bus***
- 6. [Detroit Public Schools Video](#)***

These are just a few examples of what our school bus drivers deal with often. House bills 4201 & 4203 directly deal with this concern. The school bus is an extension of the classroom. The same laws that keep our students safe in the school, should also be extended to keep our students safe on the school bus.

In HB 4201 we have proposed a penalty for boarding a school bus without permission to a civil infraction, and up to a \$500 fine. We have also listed specific categories for who is allowed to board the school bus. Parents can still board the school bus with the permission of the school bus driver. We are also proposing a penalty for impeding the operation of a school bus to a civil infraction and up to a \$500 fine.

In HB 4203 we added that school buses may now add a sign to the side of their school bus that states, "An unauthorized person attempting to board or boarding this school bus is subject to citation for a civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$500.00." This will notify people that they are not allowed to enter the school bus without permission.

We owe it to the 700,000 children who ride our school buses each and every day to keep them safe. Please help us do that by supporting and passing these bills.



HOUSE BILLS 4202 & 4204

Everyday in the State of Michigan there are approximately 600,000 school children, riding 12,000 school buses over 900,000 miles. Our school bus manufacturers have worked very hard to ensure that the inside of the bus is safe. From compartmentalization, to the rapid changing technology that is now available, our students are safer today than in the past. Even with the school bus being the safest form of transportation to and from school, we still face challenges on a daily basis.

On 5/8/2019, 1,373 school bus drivers took part in a survey to record how many motorists passed by their school bus when they had the red lights flashing. The results were terrifying, on that day, 508 times motorists ran the school buses red lights. Over the last three years of this one day survey, the average is 622 illegal pass-bys per day. That equates to 111,960 illegal pass-bys per school year! If school bus pass-bys were a city, it would rank as the 8th largest city in Michigan.

How do we keep the students safe before they get on the school bus and when they get off the school bus?

The West Shore Educational Service District, and transportation departments across the State, are taking a multi-faceted approach to decrease the number of incidents where motorists fail to stop for the stopped school bus. Through community events each year, we are educating the public on what we are doing, when we are doing it and why we are doing it. We do radio interviews, and news stories to educate motorists and we work closely with our local and state law enforcement agencies to help enforce the law and protect our children.

With all the things we are doing to educate the public, over the last several years, children were hit by motorists who illegally passed the school buses red lights. We have also seen several fatalities over the years of motorists who have run into the back of a stopped school bus. Here are a few of the headlines:

- 1. January 14, 2020, Reeths Puffer student seriously injured when he was struck at a bus stop by a vehicle that fled the scene**
- 2. October 9, 2019, 64 year old man rear-ended an Imlay City School bus and passed away**
- 3. May 15, 2019, 89 year old man rear-ended a Hart Public School bus and passed away**
- 4. October 25, 2018, 16 year old girl hit a Hart parent as he was stepping away from the school bus**
- 5. October 1, 2018, 19 year old driver hit a Morley-Stanwood 19 year old high school student and a 5 year old**
- 6. March, 2018, 16 year old male was unable to stop and hit a 15 year old girl**
- 7. March, 2018, 7 year old male was struck by a vehicle while crossing the street at his bus stop**
- 8. [Paw Paw pass-by on right side of bus](#)**

House bills 4202 & 4204 directly deal with motorists who illegally pass our school buses who have their alternating red lights displayed. Please protect the 700,000 children that ride our school buses each and every day by supporting and passing these bills. Our children deserve to have motorists held accountable for putting their lives at risk.