

CHAPTER 147**(SB 132)**

AN ACT relating to school buses and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 189.550 is amended to read as follows:

Operators of all buses and motor vehicles used for transporting children shall stop their vehicles before crossing any railroad when tracks are at the same level of the roadway. The stop shall be made not less than ***fifteen (15)***~~ten (10)~~ feet nor more than ***fifty (50)***~~thirty (30)~~ feet from the nearest track over which the highway crosses, except where the crossing is protected by gates or a flagman employed by the railroad. After making the stop, the operator shall open the service door and carefully look in each direction and listen for approaching trains or maintenance vehicles before proceeding. ***If visibility is impaired at the required distance for stopping under this section, the operator may allow the vehicle to slowly roll forward for the purpose of gaining the visibility necessary to safely cross the railroad tracks.***

Section 2. Whereas many school districts have experienced disastrous weather conditions during the 2002-03 school year that have closed or destroyed roads making school bus transportation impossible and causing schools to be closed for many days, the commissioner of education, notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary or administrative regulation to the contrary, shall approve five (5) disaster days for a school district that has been closed at least ten (10) days. Certified personnel shall continue to report to work and participate in instructional activities or professional development during the five (5) disaster days.

Section 3. Whereas school districts must know how to adjust the school calendar for the remaining part of the school year, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Approved March 18, 2003