

CHAPTER 22**(SB 124)**

AN ACT relating to school bus specifications.

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

Section 1. KRS 156.153 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) All school buses for which bids are made or bid contracts awarded shall meet the standards and specifications of the Kentucky **Department**~~Board~~ of Education. The term "school bus," as used in this section, shall mean any motor vehicle which meets the standards and specifications for school buses as provided by law or by the standards or specifications of the Kentucky **Department**~~Board~~ of Education authorized by law and used solely in transporting school children and school employees to and from school under the supervision and control and at the direction of school authorities, and shall further include school bus accessory equipment and supplies and replacement equipment considered to be reasonably adaptable for purchase from price contract agreements.
- ~~(2) All school buses manufactured prior to 1983 shall be equipped with exterior fender mounted front view and side view mirrors so as to meet the 1984 standards and specifications of the State Board for Elementary and Secondary Education.~~
- ~~(3)~~ Except in cases of emergencies or for the transportation of students with disabilities, only school buses as defined in **subsection**~~subsections~~ (1) ~~and (2)~~ of this section shall be used for transporting students to and from school along regular bus routes. Districts may use district-owned vehicles that were designed and built by the manufacturer for passenger transportation when transporting nine (9) or fewer passengers, including the driver, for approved school activities. Vehicles used under this subsection shall be clearly marked as transporting students and shall be safety inspected no less than once every thirty (30) days.

Section 2. KRS 189.540 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations to govern the design and operation of all Kentucky school buses and to govern the operation of district-owned passenger vehicles transporting students under KRS 156.153(2)~~(3)~~. The board shall, with the advice and aid of the Kentucky State Police and the Transportation Cabinet, enforce the administrative regulations governing the operation of all school buses whether owned by a school district or privately contracted and all district-owned passenger vehicles transporting students under KRS 156.153(2)~~(3)~~. The regulations covering the operation shall by reference be made a part of any contract with a school district. Every school district and private contractor referred to under this subsection shall be subject to those regulations.
- (2) Any employee of any school district who violates any of the administrative regulations in any contract executed on behalf of a school district shall be subject to removal from office. Any person operating a school bus under contract with a school district who fails to comply with any of the administrative regulations shall be guilty of breach of contract and the contract shall be canceled after proper notice and a hearing by the responsible officers of such school district.
- (3) Any person who operates a school bus shall be required to possess a commercial driver's license issued pursuant to KRS 281A.170.

Approved April 1, 2004