

A RESOLUTION encouraging school bus safety.

WHEREAS, a school bus is the safest form of ground transportation and is nearly eight times safer than a passenger vehicle; and

WHEREAS, school buses are large, heavy vehicles that provide safety to riding students by distributing crash forces through compartmentalization; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013-2014 school year, in Kentucky, there were 10,058 school buses with 11,011 school bus drivers with commercial driver's licenses travelling 8,252 school bus routes; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013-2014 school year, Kentucky buses travelled over 115 million miles without a single fatality; and

WHEREAS, getting to and from a bus is more dangerous than riding a bus, with the greatest risk of fatalities occurring in the loading zones; and

WHEREAS, current administrative regulations require training for bus drivers, safety drills for students traveling on buses, and the presence of a trained driver assistant to assist 3 and 4-year-old students to board and disembark a bus; and

WHEREAS, over the past year, school buses have been involved in accidents where young students were injured or killed while disembarking; and

WHEREAS, children involved in these school bus accidents were as young as five years old;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives strongly encourages the Kentucky Center for School Safety to provide additional technical support to school districts on school bus safety through distribution of materials that are specifically geared to young students who ride school buses, such as videos or handouts for young students and parents.

➔Section 2. The House of Representatives encourages the Kentucky Department of Education to provide additional training to local districts and their school bus drivers that is specifically geared toward ensuring the safety of young students.

➔Section 3. The House of Representatives encourages the Kentucky School Board Association to provide model policies to local school districts to ensure greater safety for younger students while boarding and disembarking from school buses.

➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to: Jon Akers, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for School Safety, 105 Stratton Building, 521 Lancaster Ave., Richmond, Kentucky 40475; Stephen L. Pruitt, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education, 500 Mero St., 1st Floor CPT, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; and Mike Armstrong, Executive Director, Kentucky School Boards Association, 260 Democrat Dr., Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.