

1 AN ACT relating to Kentucky school bus drivers.

2 WHEREAS, every day public school is in session, in darkness and daylight, bitter
3 cold and brutal heat, and in rain, snow, or sunshine, Kentucky's school bus drivers travel
4 on dirt roads and multi-lane highways to deliver the Commonwealth's school children to
5 their places of learning and to their homes again on schedule; and

6 WHEREAS, the breadth and scope of that responsibility is great and the hours
7 difficult; and

8 WHEREAS, the position of a school bus driver requires tremendous maturity and
9 responsibility, with the ability to drive safely through traffic, regardless of the weather or
10 road conditions, while maintaining the proper conduct of the children in his or her care
11 and providing life-saving leadership in the event of emergencies; and

12 WHEREAS, America's 440,000 school buses comprise the largest mass
13 transportation fleet in the country, more than two and a half times the size of all other
14 forms of mass transportation combined; and

15 WHEREAS, Kentucky's school districts often encompass large geographic areas,
16 necessitating extensive use of school buses to transport students; and

17 WHEREAS, each school day, approximately 675,000 public school students and
18 their parents rely upon dependable school bus service, which a school district provides;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, there are more than 11,000 licensed school bus drivers in the
21 Commonwealth, operating more than 10,000 registered school buses that travel more than
22 115 million miles each year; and

23 WHEREAS, the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration has documented
24 the far smaller number of accidents and fatalities per capita on school buses than in
25 automobiles driven by either students or parents; and

26 WHEREAS, school bus drivers are an important component in overall student and
27 community safety with their knowledge of their neighborhoods and their ability to observe

1 suspicious activity or people along their bus routes and communicate that information to
2 the proper authorities; and

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky's school bus drivers are dedicated to performing their duties
4 in a safe, courteous, and professional manner;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO
8 READ AS FOLLOWS:

9 *The first day of May each year is designated and shall be observed in Kentucky as*
10 *"School Bus Driver Day."*