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ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1, TO 2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 203

May 2, 2007 - Offered by Representative Sheridan.

AN ACT *to create* 347.447 of the statutes; **relating to:** electronic seat check reminders on school buses, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, school buses must be painted yellow and black and must have the words "SCHOOL BUS" in black letters at least eight inches high written on the front and back of the bus. A school bus painted in this manner may not be operated unless it is equipped with flashing red signals and with a 360-degree flashing white strobe light. Current law also allows the Department of Transportation (DOT) to prescribe rules requiring additional equipment for school buses.

This substitute amendment requires any school bus that is painted yellow and black to be equipped with an electronic seat check reminder system that will require the school bus driver to walk to the rear of the bus past each seat to check for passengers remaining in the bus and deactivate the system or an alarm will sound if the driver attempts to exit the bus. The substitute amendment also requires DOT to prescribe rules for the specifications, installation, and operation of these electronic seat check reminder systems. Any person who operates a school bus that is not

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equipped with the required electronic seat check reminder may be required to forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$200.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. 347.447 of the statutes is created to read:

- 347.447 Electronic seat check reminders for school buses. (1) No person may operate a school bus manufactured on or after the effective date of this subsection [revisor inserts date], that is painted as provided in s. 347.44 unless it is equipped with an electronic seat check reminder system that does all of the following:
- (a) Requires the driver to walk to the back of the bus and check for any passengers remaining on the bus.
- (b) Sounds an alarm if the driver attempts to exit the school bus without walking past the last seat to the rear of the bus and deactivating the system.
- (2) The secretary shall prescribe rules for the specifications, installation, and operation of electronic seat check reminders required under this section.
- **Section 2. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on the first day of the 2nd month beginning after publication, except as follows:
- (1) The treatment of section 347.447 (2) of the statutes takes effect on the day after publication.

17 (END)