

57
SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8/29/01

BILL NO. AB 154

SUBJECT School bus headlights

(NAME) Kimber Liedl

(Street Address or Route Number) 1523 Chandler St.

(City and Zip Code) Madison 53711

(Representing) Representative Mark Pethis

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8/29/01

BILL NO. AB 154

SUBJECT S.B. Headlights

(NAME) Robert W. Christian

(Street Address or Route Number) 1015- FAIR Ave

(City and Zip Code) Sheboygan WI 53082

(Representing) Wisc. School Bus Assn

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8-29-01

BILL NO. AB-154

SUBJECT

(NAME) Dick Grubbschmidt

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code) 3rd Senate Dist.

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/29/01

BILL NO. AB 154

OR
SUBJECT _____

Merry Larsen
(NAME)

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

Dept. of Public Instruction
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/29/01

BILL NO. AB 154

OR
SUBJECT _____

L. Lorentz / Brooke
(NAME)

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

State Patrol / DOT
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

Need to answer questions
Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

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Testimony for Assembly Bill 154
Kimber Liedl, Legislative Assistant
Representative Mark Pettis
August 29, 2001

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 154. Representative Pettis had a previous engagement with Secretary Bazzell and is unable to attend today, so I will be speaking on his behalf.

This legislation requires school buses to have their headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps on during operation on any roadway. Currently, they are only required to be on during hours of darkness.

The statutes define "school bus" to include traditionally painted school buses used to transport students to and from school and buses used to transport disabled and elderly people in connection with a transportation assistance program.

While I don't have specific numbers to state about bus accidents, I can tell you that having headlights on during the day has been a proven method to improve safety. As a matter of fact, the state Department of Transportation posts signs on several highways encouraging drivers to turn on their lights for safety. Highways 151 and 12 around Fond du Lac and Madison are such examples. They call it the Accident Reduction Project.

Additionally, according to the Wisconsin School Bus Association, about 50% of the buses on the road today, mostly newer ones, do have daytime running lights. Unfortunately, many districts do not have the financial means to replace older buses for those that have daytime running lights.

Representative Pettis lives in a rural area with many roads that have a limited sight distance. The addition of the strobe light on top of the bus is helpful, but not always the first thing a driver may see. The law states that these lights may be placed three feet from the front or rear of the bus. If placed in the rear of a bus that is traveling up a hill, it is not the strobe light that would be seen first, it is the headlights. I want to add that this requirement does not require additional costs for the bus companies. What it does add is another measure of safety for our children.

Some may argue that this requirement would cause problems for older buses. They say that having the lights on at all times would cause the alternators or batteries to weaken. I find it hard to believe that this would be the case. The fact that many districts use older buses proves that they are built quite well. What we must ask ourselves is what is the price for the safety for our children?

This legislation will help to create a greater awareness of school buses on the roadway, creating increased protection for their passengers and fewer accidents on the roadways. The Wisconsin Education Association Council supports this legislation. I strongly urge the committee to carefully consider this bill. Thank you for your time.

Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

Date: 8/29/01
Moved by: G Seconded by: BS
Clearinghouse Rule: _____
AB: 154 SB: _____ Appointment: _____
AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Other: _____
AR: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
A/S Sub Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage
- Introduction
- Adoption
- Rejection

- Indefinite Postponement
- Tabling
- Concurrence
- Nonconcurrence
- Confirmation

Committee Member

Sen. Roger Breske, Chair
Sen. Richard Grobschmidt
Sen. Jim Baumgart
Sen. Alan Lasee
Sen. Dale Schultz

	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Sen. Roger Breske, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Richard Grobschmidt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Jim Baumgart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Alan Lasee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Dale Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed