Wisconsin Legislative Council
AMENDMENT MEMO

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2025 Senate Bill 136	Senate Amendment 1

2025 SENATE BILL 136

2025 Senate Bill 136 allows a school bus to be equipped with one back-up lamp mounted to each side of the vehicle and directed to project a white or amber light illuminating the rear wheels of the vehicle when backing.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 clarifies the requirements for equipping a school bus with back-up lamps and permits two additional types of lighting on a school bus.

First, the amendment clarifies that the authority to equip a school bus with back-up lights applies to school buses painted in "national school bus glossy yellow" with black lettering denoting the bus as a school bus, in accordance with statutory requirements. Under the amendment, a school bus painted in this manner may be equipped with one amber or white back-up lamp on each side. These lamps must comply with the following:

- The lamps shall be mounted no more than 20 inches behind or 20 inches in front of the wheel housing area and below the floor line rub rail.
- The illumination shall be directed down and back for a distance not to exceed 75 feet.

The amendment permits the Department of Transportation (DOT) to prescribe rules for the specifications, installation, and operation of back-up lamps.

Second, the amendment allows a school bus that is painted as described above to be equipped with one illuminated sign mounted on the front above the windshield and one illuminated sign mounted on the rear above the window. These signs must emit a steady, nonglaring light.

Finally, the amendment also modifies a rule promulgated by DOT related to requirements for strobe lights on school buses to allow a school bus to be equipped with a light-emitting diode strobe light that meets or exceeds Class II SAE J845 standards.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Tomczyk offered Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 136 on May 22, 2025. On September 26, 2025, the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's bill history page.

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