



2001 SENATE BILL 179

May 16, 2001 - Introduced by Senators GROBSCHMIDT, PLACHE, BURKE, RISSER and SHIBILSKI, cosponsored by Representatives PLALE, URBAN, SINICKI, TURNER, RYBA, OTT, MORRIS-TATUM and WASSERMAN. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT to create** 347.445 of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring crossing gates
2 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. These DOT rules currently require every school bus that is painted yellow and black to be equipped with a stop signal arm, and the rules also provide specifications for the stop signal arm. These rules also allow, but do not require, a school bus to be equipped with a safety control arm mounted on the right side of the bumper.

This bill requires any school bus that is painted yellow and black to be equipped, on the front, with a retractable crossing gate that, when in use, prevents children from crossing in front of the bus in such proximity that they are not visible to the bus driver. The bill also requires DOT to prescribe rules for the specifications, installation, and operation of these crossing gates. Any person who operates a school bus that is not equipped with the required crossing gate may be required to forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$200.

