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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4623

03/07/2024 Authored by Mekeland

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to transportation; modifying supplemental warning system requirements  
1.3 on school buses; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 169.4503, subdivision  
1.4 31.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 169.4503, subdivision 31, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 31. **Supplemental warning system; temporary authority.** ~~(a) Prior to August~~  
1.8 ~~1, 2022, the commissioner may approve a Type A, B, C, or D school bus to~~ buses may be  
1.9 equipped with a supplemental warning system. On and after that date, a school bus may  
1.10 continue to be equipped with a previously approved supplemental warning system.

1.11 ~~(b) To determine approval of a supplemental warning system, the commissioner must~~  
1.12 consider A supplemental warning system must:

1.13 (1) use amber and red signal colors, which are limited to one or more of the colors white,  
1.14 amber, and red;

1.15 (2) flashing patterns use supplemental amber warning lights activated only in conjunction  
1.16 with activated overhead amber warning lights and supplemental red warning lights activated  
1.17 only in conjunction with activated overhead red flashing lights;

1.18 ~~(3) vehicle mounting and placement;~~

1.19 ~~(4) supplemental warning system activation~~ (3) be wired so the supplemental warning  
1.20 system is automatically activated in conjunction with activation of prewarning flashing  
1.21 amber signals, stop-signal arm, and flashing red signals;

1.22 ~~(5) light intensity~~ (4) be programmed to flash either:

- 2.1 (i) using a randomized flash pattern; or
- 2.2 (ii) alternating with the corresponding overhead light at a rate of 60 to 120 flashes per
- 2.3 minute; and
- 2.4 ~~(6) permissible text, signage, and graphics, if any~~ (5) use lights installed in pairs and
- 2.5 mounted on the same level and placed as wide as practicable on the body above the bumper
- 2.6 level.
- 2.7 ~~(e) The commissioner must review relevant research findings and experience in other~~
- 2.8 ~~jurisdictions, and must consult with interested stakeholders, including but not limited to~~
- 2.9 ~~representatives from school district pupil transportation directors, private school bus~~
- 2.10 ~~operators, and pupil transportation and traffic safety associations.~~