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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct research on and implement certain safety measures and programs to prevent illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. WALORSKI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct research on and implement certain safety measures and programs to prevent illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stop for School Buses
5 Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFETY PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) **REVIEW OF ILLEGAL PASSING LAWS.—**

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 shall—

4 (A) prepare a compilation of illegal passing
5 laws in all States, including levels of enforce-
6 ment and penalties and enforcement issues with
7 such laws and the impact of such laws on illegal
8 passing of school buses in each State;

9 (B) review existing State laws that may in-
10 hibit effective school bus loading zone counter-
11 measures, which may include laws requiring
12 camera visibility of a driver’s face for enforce-
13 ment action, laws that may reduce stop arm
14 camera effectiveness, the need for an officer to
15 witness the event for enforcement, and the lack
16 of primary enforcement for texting and driving;

17 (C) evaluate methods used by States to re-
18 view, document, and report to law enforcement
19 school bus stop arm violations; and

20 (D) following the completion of the com-
21 pilation, issue recommendations on best prac-
22 tices on the most-effective approaches to ad-
23 dress illegal passing of school buses.

1 (2) PUBLICATION.—The compilation and rec-
2 ommendations shall be made publicly available on
3 the website of the Department.

4 (b) PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGING CAMPAIGN.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 shall create and execute a public safety messaging
8 campaign including public safety media messages,
9 posters, digital, and other media messages for dis-
10 tribution to States, divisions of motor vehicles,
11 schools, and other public outlets to highlight the im-
12 portance of the illegal passing school buses, and
13 should include educating students and the public on
14 safe loading and unloading of schools buses.

15 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
16 sult with public and private school bus industry rep-
17 resentatives and States in developing the appropriate
18 messages.

19 (3) UPDATE.—The Secretary shall periodically
20 update the materials used in the campaign.

21 (c) REVIEW OF TECHNOLOGIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
24 shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of various
25 technologies, including cameras, audible warning

1 systems, enhanced lighting, and other technological
2 solutions to enhance school bus safety.

3 (2) CONTENT.—The review—

4 (A) shall include an evaluation of the costs
5 of new equipment and the potential impact on
6 overall school bus ridership;

7 (B) shall include an evaluation of advanced
8 technologies surrounding loading zone safety;

9 (C) shall include an evaluation of school
10 bus lighting systems, to ensure clear commu-
11 nication to surrounding drivers on their appro-
12 priate action;

13 (D) may include other technological solu-
14 tions that enhance school bus safety; and

15 (E) may include a pilot program to test
16 the technologies in school bus service.

17 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
18 sult with manufacturers of school bus vehicles, man-
19 ufacturers of various technologies, and school bus in-
20 dustry representatives in conducting the review.

21 (4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
22 the findings of the review publicly available on the
23 website of the Department.

24 (d) REVIEW OF DRIVER EDUCATION MATERIALS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 shall—

4 (A) review driver education materials
5 across all States to determine whether and how
6 illegal passing of school buses is addressed in
7 driver education materials, manuals, non-CDL
8 testing, and road tests; and

9 (B) make recommendations on how States
10 can improve education about illegal passing of
11 school buses, particularly with new drivers.

12 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
13 sult with school bus industry representatives, States,
14 motor vehicle administrators, and other appropriate
15 motor vehicle experts in the preparation of the re-
16 view.

17 (3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
18 the findings of the review publicly available on the
19 website of the Department.

20 (e) REVIEW OF OTHER SAFETY ISSUES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
23 shall research the connections between illegal pass-
24 ing of school buses and other safety issues, includ-
25 ing, but not limited to, distracted driving, morning

1 darkness, illumination and reach of vehicle head-
2 lights, speed limits, and school bus stop locations in
3 rural areas and create a report containing the find-
4 ings.

5 (2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
6 the findings of the report publicly available on the
7 website of the Department.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
11 means the Department of Transportation.

12 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Transportation.