

HB 596 -- SCHOOL BUS SAFETY CAMERAS

SPONSOR: Sommer

This bill allows a school district, if approved by a vote of its local board, to install and operate an automated camera in a school bus to detect violations of the law that require a driver to stop for a school bus that has stopped on a highway to receive or discharge students. A district will be held harmless from and not liable for any criminal or civil liability arising from the use of a safety camera. The camera may take pictures only while an infraction is occurring and may not show the face of the driver or passengers in the vehicle committing the infraction.

No image or photograph created by the camera may be used for any purpose other than the enforcement of violations, nor may it be retained longer than is necessary to enforce the provisions of the bill.

A school district must follow a competitive bid process before entering into a contract with the manufacturer or vendor of the equipment. Any revenue from infractions detected through the use of a camera, less the administration and operating costs, must be remitted to the school district where the violation occurred to be used for specified school traffic safety projects.