

School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Laws: Safety Takes a Front Seat as Kids Head Back to Class

By Patrick B. Healy

Children are returning to in-person learning and legislatures across Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio are working to keep them safe while they travel between home and school. Following a tragic [October 2018 accident](#) where a motorist struck and killed three siblings after failing to stop for a waiting school bus, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended that dozens of states “enact legislation to permit stop-arm cameras on school buses.” These cameras are designed to automatically take still images or video of persons illegally passing buses or disobeying safety signals when children are getting on or off their school buses.

KENTUCKY: In January 2021, the Kentucky House of Representatives proposed a school bus-safety bill. In March, House Bill 189 was passed by the Kentucky Senate and codified into law. The bill authorizes school districts to require the installation of these camera systems on school buses. The bill also includes increased penalties for motorists who disobey the school bus safety signals.

INDIANA: The Indiana Senate passed Senate Bill 69, which significantly increased penalties for drivers who disobey school bus stop-arms and stop signals. Unfortunately, the Indiana House did not pass the bill.

OHIO: Also in January 2021, the “School Bus Safety Act” (Senate Bill 23) was introduced in the Ohio Senate, calling for heightened penalties for motorists who disobey school bus signals, and authorizing districts to install stop-arm cameras on buses. The bill is currently being debated in Senate committee.

The bottom line is that school districts and private bus companies providing transportation services for schools and children must stay informed regarding new legislative efforts to increase student safety. Insurers have not indicated whether they will offer discounts on insurance premiums to school districts that voluntarily outfit their bus fleets with costly traffic cameras.

Further, private bus companies who provide services to schools may eventually be compelled to outfit their buses with camera systems to comply with new district-specific safety requirements. Regardless, motorists must always exercise caution to keep children safe.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this or other transportation- safety topics, please reach out to any member of our terrific team of dedicated transportation attorneys. It would be our pleasure to assist.

Chris Cotter
330.849.6756 | ccotter@ralaw.com

Patrick Healy
513.361.8298 | phealy@ralaw.com



This alert is informational only and should not be construed as legal advice. ©2021 Roetzel & Andress LPA. All rights reserved. For more information, please contact Roetzel’s Marketing Department at 330.762.7725

Emergency Response & Crisis Management

Our Emergency Response Team

provides comprehensive services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week across a geographic scope that spans Ohio and into surrounding states that include Kentucky, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Michigan.



Key Contacts:

Northeast OH and Western PA

Chris Cotter

c: 330.819.1127
ccotter@ralaw.com

Indiana

Patrick Healy

c: 513.236.3764
phealy@ralaw.com

Northwest OH and Southern MI

Phil Heebsh

c: 419.708.5390
pheebsh@ralaw.com

Southwest OH and Kentucky

Tyler Jolley

c: 513.401.2219
tjolley@ralaw.com

Central OH and Southeast OH

Phil Sarnowski

c: 330.723.2096
psarnowski@ralaw.com

Emergency Response & Crisis Management Practice Group Manager

Brad Wright

c: 330.472.3656
bwright@ralaw.com



Practical Advice. Real Solutions.
That's the Roetzel way.

