

## CHAPTER 7

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**MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION**

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SENATE BILL 00-053

BY SENATORS Musgrave, Dyer, Powers, Arnold, Congrove, Evans, and Hernandez;  
also REPRESENTATIVES Mace, Gotlieb, May, Swenson, Williams S., Chavez, Gagliardi, Tapia, Tochtrop, and Vigil.

**AN ACT**

CONCERNING REGULATION OF SCHOOL BUSES.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:***SECTION 1.** 42-1-102 (88), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:**42-1-102. Definitions.** As used in articles 1 to 4 of this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

(88) "School bus" means every motor vehicle which is owned by OR UNDER CONTRACT TO a public or governmental agency and operated for the transportation of children to or from school OR ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES, or which is privately owned and operated for compensation but it does not include informal or intermittent arrangements, such as sharing of actual gasoline expense or participation in a car pool, for the transportation of children to or from school OR ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.

**SECTION 2.** 42-4-707 (1) and (5), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

**42-4-707. Certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossings.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the driver of ~~any motor vehicle carrying more than six passengers for hire, or of~~ any school bus, AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION, carrying any schoolchild or of any vehicle carrying hazardous materials which is required to be placarded in accordance with regulations issued pursuant to section 42-20-108, before crossing at grade any tracks of a railroad, shall stop such vehicle within fifty feet but not less than fifteen feet from the nearest rail of such railroad and while so stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for any approaching train and for signals indicating the

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

approach of a train and shall not proceed until the driver can do so safely. After stopping as required in this section and upon proceeding when it is safe to do so, the driver of any said vehicle shall cross only in such gear of the vehicle that there will be no necessity for changing gears while traversing such crossing, and the driver shall not manually shift gears while crossing the tracks.

(5) For the purposes of this section:

(a) The definition of hazardous materials shall be the definition contained in the rules ~~and regulations~~ adopted by the chief of the Colorado state patrol pursuant to section 42-20-108.

(b) "SCHOOL BUS" MEANS ONLY THOSE SCHOOL BUSES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO BEAR ON THE FRONT AND REAR OF SUCH SCHOOL BUS THE WORDS "SCHOOL BUS" AND DISPLAY VISUAL SIGNAL LIGHTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 42-4-1903 (2) (a).

**SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: March 9, 2000