

1 AN ACT relating to bus safety.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔ Section 1. KRS 156.153 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) **As used in this section:**

5 **(a) "Danger zone" means the area within ten (10) feet of a school bus in any**  
6 **direction; and**~~[All school buses for which bids are made or bid contracts~~  
7 ~~awarded shall meet the standards and specifications of the Kentucky~~  
8 ~~Department of Education. The term ]~~

9 **(b) "School bus" means**~~[," as used in this section, shall mean]~~ any motor vehicle  
10 which meets the standards and specifications for school buses as provided by  
11 law or by the standards or specifications of the Kentucky Department of  
12 Education authorized by law and used solely in transporting school children  
13 and school employees to and from school under the supervision and control  
14 and at the direction of school authorities, and shall further include school bus  
15 accessory equipment and supplies and replacement equipment considered to  
16 be reasonably adaptable for purchase from price contract agreements.

17 **(2) All school buses for which bids are made or bid contracts awarded shall meet the**  
18 **standards and specifications of the Kentucky Department of Education.**

19 ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ Except in cases of emergencies or for the transportation of students with  
20 disabilities, only school buses as defined in subsection (1) of this section shall be  
21 used for transporting students to and from school along regular bus routes. Districts  
22 may use district-owned vehicles that were designed and built by the manufacturer  
23 for passenger transportation when transporting nine (9) or fewer passengers,  
24 including the driver, for approved school activities. Vehicles used under this  
25 subsection shall be clearly marked as transporting students and shall be safety  
26 inspected no less than once every thirty (30) days.

27 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ As part of its regular procedure for establishing and updating school bus

standards and specifications, the Kentucky Department of Education shall consider allowing school buses to operate using clean transportation fuels, as defined in KRS 186.750. If the department determines that school buses may operate using clean transportation fuels while maintaining the same or a higher degree of safety as fuels currently allowed, it shall update its standards and specifications to allow for such use.

**(5) The Kentucky Department of Education shall:**

**(a) Consider requiring that any new school bus purchased on or after July 1, 2025, be equipped with:**

**1. Sensors to determine the presence of objects in the danger zone around the bus;**

**2. Sensors warning the driver that the door is not completely closed; and**

**3. Interior cameras; and**

**(b) Promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to establish:**

**1. The design and installation standards for the sensors; and**

**2. Retention periods for interior camera recordings;**

**which may be required under this subsection.**

**(6) By June 30, 2025, the Kentucky Department of Education shall submit a report to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Education regarding the availability and effectiveness of sensor technology.**

➔ Section 2. KRS 189.540 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations to govern the design and operation of all Kentucky school buses and to govern the operation of district-owned passenger vehicles transporting students under KRS 156.153~~(3)~~<sup>(2)</sup>. The board shall, with the advice and aid of the Department of Kentucky State Police and the Transportation Cabinet, enforce the administrative

1 regulations governing the operation of all school buses whether owned by a school  
2 district or privately contracted and all district-owned passenger vehicles  
3 transporting students under KRS 156.153~~(2)~~<sup>(3)</sup>. The regulations covering the  
4 operation shall by reference be made a part of any contract with a school district.  
5 Every school district and private contractor referred to under this subsection shall  
6 be subject to those regulations.

7 (2) Any employee of any school district who violates any of the administrative  
8 regulations in any contract executed on behalf of a school district shall be subject to  
9 removal from office. Any person operating a school bus under contract with a  
10 school district who fails to comply with any of the administrative regulations shall  
11 be guilty of breach of contract and the contract shall be canceled after proper notice  
12 and a hearing by the responsible officers of such school district.

13 (3) Any person who operates a school bus shall be required to possess a commercial  
14 driver's license issued pursuant to KRS 281A.170 with a school bus endorsement as  
15 described in KRS 281A.175.

16 ➔Section 3. KRS 281.635 is amended to read as follows:

17 Notwithstanding anything contained in this chapter:

18 (1) All cities of the Commonwealth are vested with the power to grant authorization for  
19 the operation of buses over their streets and highways. Upon acquiring  
20 authorization, the holder of the authorization shall apply to the Department of  
21 Vehicle Regulation for a bus certificate.

22 (2) The governing body of any city in the Commonwealth in which city buses operate  
23 shall have supervisory and regulatory power over such buses, while operating in the  
24 city, and shall have authority to enforce all ordinances or regulations pertaining to  
25 routes, services, time schedules, and operation of the buses and the drivers thereof,  
26 but any interested party may appeal to the department from any action, finding, or  
27 order of any city within thirty (30) days after the entry of the action, finding, or

1 order, and a hearing shall be held in accordance with KRS 281.640; however, any  
2 action, finding, or order of any city shall be sustained if there is substantial evidence  
3 or reason to support it; otherwise the department shall make the orders as it deems  
4 necessary and proper. However, where a carrier's entire operation is confined to  
5 intracity transportation within the corporate limits of a single city, there shall be no  
6 appeal to the department from the actions, findings, or orders of the city. Provided  
7 further, that where any city bus is subject to the regulatory powers of more than one  
8 (1) city and the regulations are in conflict or such as to impede the transportation  
9 facilities serving the cities, or the carrier is failing to furnish safe, adequate and  
10 convenient service to the public, the department may, upon complaint or on its own  
11 initiative, call a hearing and enter orders as are necessary and proper.

12 (3) The governing body of any city of the first class, a city with a population equal to or  
13 greater than twenty thousand (20,000) based upon the most recent federal decennial  
14 census, and the city's suburban area, or the corporate limits of any city and its  
15 suburban area located in a county which contains a city of the first class, a city with  
16 a population equal to or greater than twenty thousand (20,000) based upon the most  
17 recent federal decennial census, or an urban-county government, in the  
18 Commonwealth in which taxicabs, limousines, or disabled persons vehicles operate  
19 shall have concurrent supervisory and regulatory power over those certified carriers  
20 operating from the city, and shall have authority to enforce all ordinances or  
21 regulations pertaining to their operation, but any interested party may appeal to the  
22 department from any action, finding, or order of any city within thirty (30) days  
23 after the entry of the action, finding, or order, and a hearing shall be held in  
24 accordance with KRS 281.640; however, any action, finding, or order of any city  
25 shall be sustained if there is substantial evidence or reason to support it; otherwise,  
26 the department shall make any orders that it deems necessary and proper. Where  
27 any taxicab, limousine, or disabled persons vehicle carrier is subject to the

1 regulatory powers of more than one (1) city and the regulations of those cities are in  
2 conflict or impede serving the transportation needs of the Commonwealth, the  
3 department may, upon complaint or on its own initiative, call a hearing and enter  
4 orders as are necessary and proper, including establishing or requiring the  
5 establishment of uniform regulations.

6 (4) The governing body of any city of the first class, a city with a population equal to or  
7 greater than twenty thousand (20,000) based upon the most recent federal decennial  
8 census, and the city's suburban area, or the corporate limits of any city and its  
9 suburban area located in a county which contains a city of the first class, a city with  
10 a population equal to or greater than twenty thousand (20,000) based upon the most  
11 recent federal decennial census, or an urban-county government, in the  
12 Commonwealth is hereby vested with the concurrent power to prescribe the  
13 qualifications with respect to the health, vision, sobriety, intelligence, ability, moral  
14 character, and experience of the drivers of taxicabs, limousines, or disabled persons  
15 vehicles operating from the city, and while operating in the city, and may issue  
16 permits for qualified drivers. However, any taxicab, limousine, disabled persons  
17 vehicle, or TNC vehicle driver must also possess a valid operator's license from  
18 Kentucky or another jurisdiction.

19 (5) *The governing bodies of any city in the Commonwealth in which city buses*  
20 *operate are encouraged to consider requiring any new bus purchased on or after*  
21 *July 1, 2025, be equipped with sensor technology as set forth in subsection (5) of*  
22 *Section 1 of this Act.*

23 (6) The governing body of a city shall not have authority over a motor vehicle that is  
24 being operated as a human service transportation delivery vehicle under a contract  
25 with the Transportation Cabinet in accordance with KRS 96A.095(4).

26 ➔Section 4. Subsection (5) of Section 1 of this Act may be cited as Ally's Law.