

CHECK LIST FOR ALDERMANIC SUBMISSIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cover Letter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resolutions/Orders/Ordinances (NOTE: If you are submitting any item to the State you must write a Resolution)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prior Notification Form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fiscal Impact Statement - Should include comprehensive budget
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supporting Documentation (if applicable)

IN ADDITION [IF A GRANT/DONATION]:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Notice of Intent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Summary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary (not longer than 5 pages without an explanation)

Date Submitted: May 6, 2025

Meeting Submitted For: May 19, 2025

Regular or Suspension Agenda: Regular

Submitted By: Sandeep Aysola, Transportation, Traffic & Parking

Title of Legislation:

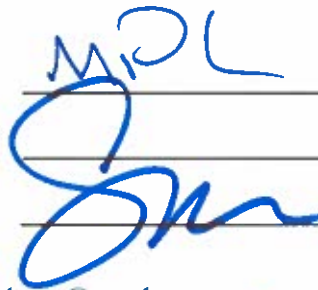
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO TITLE III OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CHAPTER 29 – TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES ADDING ARTICLE VII ENTITLED "SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION DETECTION, MONITORING, AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM"

Comments: Legistar File ID: OR-2025-0016

Coordinator's Signature: _____

Controller's Signature (if grant): _____

Mayor's Office Signature: _____



Call (203) 927-0802 or email aguzhnay@newhavenct.gov with any questions.

****PLEASE NOTE CLEARLY IF UC (UNANIMOUS CONSENT) IS REQUESTED****

***** SUSPENSION AGENDA ITEMS MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT OF BOA*****



Transportation, Traffic and Parking

City of New Haven

200 Orange Street, G3

New Haven, CT 06510

Justin Elicker
Mayor

Sandeep Aysola
Director

May 6, 2025

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers, President
Board of Alders of the City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Re: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO TITLE III OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S
CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CHAPTER 29 – TRAFFIC AND MOTOR
VEHICLES ADDING ARTICLE VII ENTITLED "SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION
DETECTION, MONITORING, AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM"

Dear President Walker-Myers:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the attached ordinance amendment to **Title III-Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 29 – Traffic and Motor Vehicles, Article VII – School Bus Violation Detection, Monitoring, and Enforcement System.**

This proposed amendment, if approved, will formally authorize the City to adopt and enforce an ordinance addressing the illegal passing of school buses, including the imposition of fines associated with such violations.

The Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department has drafted the proposed changes pursuant to the authority under Connecticut Public Act 24-107, which took effect July 1, 2024. Connecticut Public Act 24-107 enables municipalities to enhance enforcement mechanisms; specifically, using automated monitoring systems to prevent vehicles from unlawfully passing stopped school buses. In alignment with this state statute, the City proposes to impose a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) on the registered owner of a motor vehicle in violation of this ordinance. Revenue collected through this ordinance shall be dedicated to improving public safety within the City, including but not limited to compensating a private vendor who shall be responsible for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the monitoring system.

By aligning our municipal code with the state statute, New Haven will reaffirm its commitment to student safety, responsible driving, and the protection of our most vulnerable road users. This ordinance represents a proactive, enforceable step toward safeguarding school children and deterring hazardous driving behavior at schools and school bus stops.

NEW HAVEN MAKE IT HAPPEN HERE

Mayor@cityofnewhaven.com

info@cityofnewhaven.com

We appreciate your leadership and consideration of this important amendment. On behalf of the department, I respectfully request that the Board of Alders approve this ordinance amendment as submitted.

Very truly yours,



Sandeep Aysola, Director
Transportation, Traffic, & Parking Department

..title

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO TITLE III OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CHAPTER 29 – TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES
ADDING ARTICLE VII ENTITLED “SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION DETECTION,
MONITORING, AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM”

..body

WHEREAS, the safe transportation of school children is of the utmost importance to the City of New Haven (“City”); and,

WHEREAS, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 24-107 (“Public Act”), authorizing municipalities to implement live digital video school bus violation detection and enforcement systems to identify and enforce violations of § 14-279 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the City seeks to utilize the authority granted by the Public Act to improve public safety and reduce the incidence of vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses through the deployment of a School Bus Violation Detection, Monitoring, and Enforcement System (“Monitoring System”); and,

WHEREAS, the Monitoring System will be administered and enforced by the Department of Transportation, Traffic, and Parking of the City and is designed to ensure compliance with laws governing school bus safety and protect children across the City; and,

WHEREAS, the ordinance sets forth clear definitions, enforcement mechanisms, due process protections, and funding procedures to support fair and efficient implementation of the Monitoring System in accordance with the Public Act and § 7-152c of the general statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Alders of the City of New Haven that:

1. The Board of Alders of the City of New Haven hereby adopts Article VII – School Bus Violation Detection, Monitoring, and Enforcement System, including Sections 29-147 through 29-157 of Chapter 29 – Traffic and Motor Vehicles, as fully set forth in the ordinance presented to the Board and attached hereto.
2. That the Department of Transportation, Traffic, and Parking is authorized to oversee the implementation, operation, and enforcement of the Monitoring System in accordance with the ordinance and the provisions of Public Act 24-107, including entering into agreements for installation, operation, and maintenance of the system.
3. That all fines and revenues collected as a result of enforcement under this ordinance shall be used to improve public safety within the City, including but not limited to addressing the costs associated with the Monitoring System.

4. That the Mayor, or their designee, is authorized to take all steps necessary to implement and effectuate this ordinance, including the appointment of hearing officers pursuant to § 7-152c of the general statutes.
5. That the Mayor is authorized to sign any associated agreements or MOUs, agreements with contractors, and other documents, any of which may include indemnification provisions, and which may have a term of longer than one year, that the Board of Education or City of New Haven deems desirable or necessary, including any subsequent amendments to agreements regarding installation, maintenance, and implementation of school bus stop arm camera technology and its associated enforcement program
6. That any inconsistent provisions in prior ordinances, bylaws, resolutions, or regulations are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency, and the ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the aforesaid ordinance text amendments shall take effect upon publication of said amendments pursuant to the requirements of the New Haven Charter and Connecticut law.

TITLE III - CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES

CHAPTER 29 – TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Article VII – School Bus Violation Detection, Monitoring, and Enforcement System.

Sec. 29-147. School Bus Violation Detection, Monitoring, and Enforcement System.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Public Act 24-107, of the 2024 Session of the Connecticut General Assembly (the “Public Act”) as may be amended from time to time, the City of New Haven (the “City”) hereby adopts this ordinance to authorize the use of live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring systems (the “Monitoring System”) and to provide a process for the enforcement of this ordinance including procedures set forth in § 7-152c of the general statutes (the “Monitoring Enforcement System”). The Monitoring System and the Monitoring Enforcement System shall be implemented, administered, overseen and enforced by the City’s Transportation, Traffic and Parking Department.

Sec. 29-148. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Driver, motor vehicle, number plate, and owner shall have the same meanings as provided in § 14-1 of the general statutes.

Live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system or monitoring system means a system with one or more camera sensors and computers that produce live digital and recorded video images of motor vehicles being operated in violation of § 14-279 of the general statutes as amended by Public Act 24-

107 and which produce a live visual image that is viewable remotely and a recorded image of the number plate of a motor vehicle violating § 14-279, as amended by Public Act 24-107. Such recorded image shall indicate the date, time and location of the violation. The Monitoring System shall, to the extent practicable, record images of the number plate of a motor vehicle only and shall not record images of the occupants of such motor vehicle or of any other persons or vehicles in the vicinity at the time the images are recorded.

"municipal school bus violation enforcement system" means a system with one or more camera sensors and computers that produce: (1) Digital and recorded video images of motor vehicles being operated in violation of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4 of Public Act 24-107, (2) a visual image that is viewable remotely and a recorded image of the number plate of a motor vehicle violating an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (3) a recorded image that indicates the date, time and location of the violation.

School Bus or Schoolbus shall have the same meaning as provided in § 14-275 of the general statutes.

Sec. 29-149. Contractual Services.

The City may enter into agreements for contractual services including vendors for the installation, operation and maintenance of such of the Monitoring System. Any agreement for contractual services to install, operate and maintain the Monitoring System shall:

- (a) provide for the compensation to the contractor or vendor for the expense of the monitoring services and cost of equipment provided by the vendor and for the reimbursement of the vendor for the expenses of installing, operating and maintaining the monitoring system by using, in whole or in part, amounts remitted to the City in accordance with subsection (e) of § 51-56a of the general statutes, in respect to the violation of § 14-279 of the general statutes, as amended by Public Act 24-107;
- (b) require the contractor or vendor to, on an annual basis, submit a report to the City that includes, but is not limited to: (1) The total number of citations issued pursuant to § 14-279b of the general statutes, as amended by Public Act 24-107, as a result of a violation detected and recorded by the Monitoring System, and (2) the total amount of funds collected from such citations.

Sec. 29-150. City Obligations and Reporting.

To use the Monitoring System, the City shall be required to:

- (a) not later than thirty days after receipt of the report required by § 29-139(b) of this ordinance, submit such report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation and public safety and security;
- (b) not later than October first following adoption of this ordinance, and not later than October first in each year thereafter in which this ordinance is in effect, submit a report to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, which shall include, but need not be limited to:
 - (a) A copy of such ordinance, (b) the total number of citations issued for a violation of such ordinance in the prior fiscal year, (c) the total amount of funds collected for such violations in the prior fiscal year, and (d) how the municipality spent such funds in the prior fiscal year.

- (c) post warning signs on all school buses in which the Monitoring System is installed and operated pursuant to § 14-279 of the general statutes, as amended by Public Act 24-107 indicating the use of such system.

Sec. 29-151. Penalty and Process for violation.

(a) Whenever the Monitoring System detects and produces a live digital and recorded video image of a motor vehicle being operated in violation of this ordinance, a police officer or City employee designated by the Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department, shall review the evidence file which shall include two or more digital photographs, recorded video or other recorded images. If after review, the police officer or designated City employee determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of this ordinance has occurred, such officer or designated City employee shall authorize the issuance of a citation for such alleged violation. If such officer or designated City employee authorizes the issuance of a citation for such alleged violation, the City or its designated agent shall, not later than thirty days after the alleged violation, mail by first class mail a citation to the registered owner of the motor vehicle together with a copy of two or more digital photographs, recorded video or other recorded images. In the case of an alleged violation involving a motor vehicle registered in another jurisdiction, the City shall send a copy of a citation to the address of the owner that is in the records of the official in the other jurisdiction issuing such registration not later than sixty days after the alleged violation.

(b) A citation under this ordinance shall include the following:

- (1) the name and address of the owner of the motor vehicle;
- (2) the number plate of the motor vehicle;
- (3) the ordinance allegedly violated;
- (4) the date, location and time of the alleged violation;
- (5) a copy of or information on how to view, through electronic means, the recorded images described in this section;
- (6) a statement or electronically generated affirmation by the police officer or authorized employee who reviewed the recorded images and determined that the motor vehicle violated this ordinance;
- (7) the fine imposed pursuant to the ordinance and how to pay such fine;
- (8) notice of the right to contest the citation and instructions for how to request a citation hearing; and
- (9) information advising the owner of the motor vehicle of the procedure for disclaiming liability by submitting an affidavit as described in subsection (j) of section 4 of Public Act 24-107 to the City.

Sec. 29-152. Fine for violation.

(a) The City shall impose a fine for committing a violation of this ordinance in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) against the owner of a motor vehicle who commits a violation of this ordinance.

(b) The City shall collect such fines, with proceeds credited to the City.

(c) Payment of a fine and any associated fees may be made by electronic means.

(d) A reasonable fee, not to exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00), may be imposed for the costs associated with the electronic processing of the citation.

(e) Funds received by the City from such fines shall be used for the purposes of improving public safety in the City, including but not limited to compensating any private vendor that installs, operates or maintains the City's Monitoring System.

Sec. 29-153. Fine for violation. Monitoring enforcement system.

(a) In accordance with C.G.S. § 7-152c, any owner issued a citation for violating the provisions of this ordinance may, within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the citation, deliver or mail an appeal in writing requesting a hearing to the City's Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department.

The mayor shall appoint one (1) or more citations hearing officers, all of whom shall serve without pay, other than City police officer(s) or persons who work in the City police department or employees of the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Department, to conduct the hearings authorized by this section. No person shall be appointed to the position of hearing officer unless such person is:

- (1) At least eighteen (18) years of age;
- (2) In the opinion of the appointing official, a person capable of fairly administering the applicable provisions of law based on such person's background and experience, including but not limited to the person's education, special skills and training.

Any appointed hearing officer whose personal interests do or may give the appearance of conflict with the hearing officer's official responsibilities herein enumerated shall remove himself from presiding over any such hearing, and in such case the appointing official shall appoint a substitute hearing officer for the hearing. Any hearing officer may be removed at any time by the appointing official for whatever reason such official deems sufficient.

(c) Any person who timely requests a hearing pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be given written notice of the date, time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be held not less than fifteen days nor more than thirty days from the date of the mailing of the citation, provided the hearing officer shall grant upon good cause shown any reasonable request by any interested party for postponement or continuance.

(d) A manual or automated record prepared by the police officer, City employee or vendor in the ordinary course of business shall be prima facie evidence of such mailing and shall be admissible in any citation hearing as to the facts contained in the citation.

(e) A certificate or facsimile of a certificate of the review of the evidence produced by the City Monitoring Enforcement System, sworn to by the police officer or authorized City employee who conducted such review, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained in such certificate.

(f) A digital still or video image produced by the Monitoring System shall be sufficient evidence of a violation of this ordinance and shall be admitted at a citation hearing proceeding without further authentication.

(g) A person wishing to contest the person's liability shall appear at the hearing and may present evidence. A designated City official, other than the hearing officer, may present evidence on behalf of the municipality. If the person fails to appear, the hearing officer may enter an assessment by default against the person upon a finding of proper notice and liability under this ordinance. The hearing officer may accept from the person copies of police reports, investigatory and citation reports, and other official documents by mail and may determine thereby that the appearance of such person is unnecessary.

(h) The hearing officer shall conduct the hearing in the order and form and with such methods of proof as the hearing officer deems fair and appropriate. The rules regarding the admissibility of evidence shall not be strictly applied, but all testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. The hearing officer shall announce the decision at the end of the hearing. If the hearing officer determines that the person is not liable, the hearing officer shall dismiss the matter and enter this determination in writing accordingly. If the hearing officer determines that the person is liable for the violation, the hearing officer shall forthwith enter and assess the fines, penalties, costs or fees against the person as provided by this ordinance.

(i) The burden of proof shall be preponderance of the evidence.

(j) The owner of a motor vehicle shall be liable for any fine imposed pursuant to this ordinance section, unless (1) the vehicle identified by the Monitoring System is a leased or rented motor vehicle, in which case the lessee of such vehicle shall be liable for any such fine, or (2) an affidavit is filed pursuant to subsection (j) of section 4 of Public Act 24-107, in which case the operator shall be liable for any such fine.

Sec 29-154. Defenses.

(a) All defenses shall be available to any person who is alleged to have committed a violation of this ordinance, including, but not limited to, that:

- (1) The operator was driving an emergency vehicle in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 14-283 of the general statutes;
- (2) the violation was necessary to allow the passage of an emergency vehicle;
- (3) the violation was necessary in order for the operator to comply with an order or direction from a law enforcement officer, which is observable on the recorded images;
- (4) the violation was necessary to avoid injuring the person or property of another;

- (5) the violation took place during a period of time in which the motor vehicle had been reported as being stolen to a law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, and had not been recovered prior to the time of the violation;
- (6) the operator received a citation for a violation of section 14-279 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the same incident; or
- (7) the violation was incurred while participating in a funeral procession.

(b) It shall not be a defense that the Monitoring System recorded images of the occupants of such motor vehicle or of any other persons or vehicles in the vicinity at the time the images were recorded.

(c) No recorded image produced by a monitoring system pursuant to this section may be introduced as evidence in any other civil or criminal proceedings.

(d) Violations of this ordinance shall not be made part of the driving control record, as described in section 14-111l of the general statutes, of such owner and may not be used for any purpose in the provision of a motor vehicle insurance policy.

(e) A digital still or video image produced by a municipal school bus violation enforcement system to enforce this ordinance shall be destroyed the later of: (1) Ninety days after the date of the creation of such digital still or video image, or (2) upon payment or final disposition of all matters related to a citation issued for a violation of this ordinance to which such digital still or video image pertains.

Sec. 29-155. The Public Act.

To the extent of applicability, any provisions of Public Act 24-107 that are necessary to further and/or effectuate this ordinance are hereby incorporated and adopted in toto, herein.

Sec. 29-156. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Sec. 29-157. Repealer.

All City ordinances, bylaws, orders, resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any ordinances, bylaws, orders, resolutions, or parts thereof, heretofore repealed.

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

PRIOR NOTIFICATION FORM

NOTICE OF MATTER TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF ALDERS

TO (list applicable alders of):

ALL

WARD # **ALL**

DATE: **May 6, 2025**

FROM: Department/Office Transportation, Traffic & Transportation
Person Sandeep Aysola Telephone 203-946-8067

This is to inform you that the following matter affecting your ward(s) will be submitted to the Board of Alders in the near future:

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO TITLE III OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S CODE
OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CHAPTER 29 – TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES
ADDING ARTICLE VII ENTITLED "SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION DETECTION,
MONITORING, AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM"

Check one if this an appointment to a Board or Commission:

☐

Democrat

☐

Republican

☐

Unaffiliated/Independent/Other _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO DEPARTMENTS

1. Departments are responsible for sending this form to the alder(s) affected by the item.
2. This form must be sent (or delivered) directly to the alder(s) **before** it is submitted to the Legislative Services Office for the Board of Alders agenda.
3. The date entry must be completed with the date this form was sent the alder(s).
4. Copies to: alder(s); sponsoring department; attached to submission to Board of Alders.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DATE: May 6, 2025
FROM (Dept.): Transportation, Traffic, & Parking
CONTACT: Sandeep Aysola **PHONE** 203-946-8067

SUBMISSION ITEM (Title of Legislation):

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO TITLE III OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CHAPTER 29 – TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES ADDING ARTICLE VII ENTITLED "SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION DETECTION, MONITORING, AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM"

List Cost: Describe in as much detail as possible both personnel and non-personnel costs; general, capital or special funds; and source of funds currently budgeted for this purpose.

GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL FUNDS	BOND FUNDING	CAPITAL/LINE ITEM/DEPT/ACT/OBJ CODE
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A. Personnel

1. Initial start up

2. One-time

3. Annual

See Below

B. Non-personnel

1. Initial start up

2. One-time

3. Annual

List Revenues: Will this item result in any revenues for the City? If Yes, please list amount and type.

NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

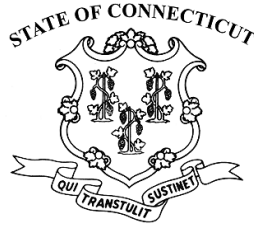
1. One-time

See Below

2. Annual:

Other Comments:

As customary for automated enforcement systems, the City will collect revenue from infractions which may be then used only for purposes specified in the Special Act and pursuant to authorization by the Board of Alders, including but not limited to, public safety programs and administrative services associated with the operation of the program (for example, a third party vendor to support the Monitoring System and Monitoring Enforcement System, as defined in this proposed Ordinance. Implementation and financial information will be presented at hearing.



Substitute Senate Bill No. 420

Public Act No. 24-107

AN ACT CONCERNING ILLEGALLY PASSING A SCHOOL BUS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 14-279 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The operator of any vehicle or motor vehicle, including an authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, shall immediately bring such vehicle to a stop not less than ten feet from the front when approaching and not less than ten feet from the rear when overtaking or following any registered school bus on any highway or private road or in any parking area or on any school property when such bus is displaying flashing red signal lights, except at the specific direction of a traffic officer. Vehicles so stopped for a school bus shall not proceed until such school bus no longer displays flashing red signal lights, except that a stopped authorized emergency vehicle may proceed as long as such authorized emergency vehicle is operated pursuant to section 14-283. At the intersection of two or more highways vehicular turns toward a school bus receiving or discharging passengers are prohibited. The operator of a vehicle upon a highway with [separate roadways need not stop] two or more lanes for traffic separated by a safety island or physical barrier may proceed without stopping upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on [a different roadway] the

Substitute Senate Bill No. 420

opposite side of such island or barrier.

(b) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this section shall be fined four hundred fifty dollars for the first offense and for each subsequent offense, not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both.

(c) Upon receipt of a written report from any school bus operator specifying the [license plate] number plate, color and type of any vehicle observed by such operator violating any provision of subsection (a) of this section and the date, approximate time and location of such violation, a police officer shall issue a written warning or a summons to the owner of any such vehicle.

Sec. 2. Section 14-279a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) As used in this section and section 14-279b, as amended by this act, "live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system" or "monitoring system" means a system with one or more camera sensors and computers that produce live digital and recorded video images of motor vehicles being operated in violation of section 14-279, as amended by this act. A monitoring system shall produce a live visual image that is viewable remotely and a recorded image of the [license plate] number plate of a motor vehicle violating section 14-279, as amended by this act. Such recorded image shall indicate the date, time and location of the violation.

(b) A municipality or local or regional board of education may install, operate and maintain live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring systems, or may enter into an agreement with a private vendor for the installation, operation and maintenance of such monitoring systems. Such agreement shall provide for the

Substitute Senate Bill No. 420

compensation to the vendor for the expense of the monitoring services and cost of equipment provided by the vendor and for the reimbursement of the vendor for the expenses of installing, operating and maintaining the monitoring system. Such agreement shall provide that the vendor shall, on an annual basis, submit a report to such municipality or local or regional board of education that includes, but is not limited to: (1) The total number of citations issued pursuant to section 14-279b, as amended by this act, as a result of a violation detected and recorded by the monitoring system, and (2) the total amount of funds collected from such citations. The municipality or local or regional board of education shall, [within] not later than thirty days after receipt of such report, submit such report to the joint standing [committee] committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation and public safety and security. A municipality or local or regional board of education serving a municipality that has entered into an agreement with a private vendor for the installation, operation and maintenance of a live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system shall use amounts remitted to such municipality in accordance with subsection (e) of section 51-56a, in respect to the violation of section 14-279, as amended by this act, to reimburse the private vendor for the expenses for installing, operating and maintaining the monitoring system.

(c) A warning sign shall be posted on all school buses in which a monitoring system is installed and [operational] operated pursuant to this section indicating the use of such system.

(d) A monitoring system [shall be] installed [so as to] pursuant to this section shall record images of the number plate of a motor vehicle only, and shall not record images of the occupants of such motor vehicle or of any other persons or vehicles in the vicinity at the time the images are recorded.

(e) (1) A municipality or local or regional board of education that is

Substitute Senate Bill No. 420

not operating a live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system pursuant to subsection (b) of this section prior to July 1, 2024, shall not (A) commence operation of such a system on or after July 1, 2024, or (B) enter into an agreement with a private vendor pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for the installation, operation and maintenance of such a system on or after July 1, 2024.

(2) A municipality or local or regional board of education, or a private vendor under an agreement pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, that is operating a live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system pursuant to subsection (b) of this section on July 1, 2024, shall cease operation of such system not later than July 1, 2026, except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(3) A private vendor operating a live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system may continue operating such system on or after July 1, 2026, provided (A) the agreement regarding such operation was entered into pursuant to subsection (b) of this section prior to July 1, 2024, (B) no option to renew or extend such agreement is exercised on or after July 1, 2024, that would extend such operation to include any period of time on or after July 1, 2026, and (C) such operation ceases upon termination of such agreement.

Sec. 3. Section 14-279b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Whenever a violation of section 14-279, as amended by this act, is detected and recorded by a live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system operated pursuant to section 14-279a, as amended by this act, a state or municipal police officer shall review the evidence file which shall include two or more digital photographs, recorded video or other recorded images. If, after such review, such officer determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of section 14-279, as amended by this act, has occurred, such

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officer shall authorize the issuance of a summons for such alleged violation. If such officer authorizes the issuance of a summons for such alleged violation, the law enforcement agency shall, not later than thirty days after the alleged violation, mail a summons to the registered owner of the motor vehicle together with a copy of two or more digital photographs, recorded video or other recorded images.

(b) As provided in subsection (b) of section 14-107, proof of the registration number of the motor vehicle therein concerned shall be prima facie evidence that the owner was the operator thereof, except that, in the case of a leased or rented motor vehicle, such proof shall be prima facie evidence that the lessee was the operator thereof. A photographic or digital still or video image produced by a live digital video school bus detection monitoring system operating pursuant to section 14-279a, as amended by this act, that clearly shows the number plate of a vehicle violating section 14-279, as amended by this act, shall be sufficient proof of the identity of such vehicle for purposes of subsection (b) of section 14-107.

(c) Any person who is alleged to have committed a violation of section 14-279, as amended by this act, and receives a summons pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall follow the procedures set forth in section 51-164n.

(d) A recorded image produced by a monitoring system operating pursuant to section 14-279a, as amended by this act, shall be sufficient evidence of a violation of section 14-279, as amended by this act, and shall be admitted without further authentication.

(e) All defenses shall be available to any person who is alleged to have committed a violation of section 14-279, as amended by this act, that is detected and recorded by a monitoring system operating pursuant to section 14-279a, as amended by this act, including, but not limited to, that (1) the violation was necessary to allow the passage of an

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emergency vehicle, (2) the violation was necessary to avoid injuring the person or property of another, (3) the violation was incurred while participating in a funeral procession, (4) the violation was incurred during a period of time in which the motor vehicle had been reported as being stolen to an organized local police department or the state police and had not been recovered prior to the time of the violation, (5) the operator was convicted of a violation of section 14-279, as amended by this act, for the same incident based upon a separate and distinct summons issued by a sworn police officer, or (6) the violation was necessary in order for the operator to comply with any other general statute or regulation concerning the operation of a motor vehicle.

(f) No recorded image produced by a monitoring system pursuant to this section may be introduced as evidence in any other civil or criminal proceedings.

(g) A recorded image produced by a monitoring system operated pursuant to section 14-279a, as amended by this act, shall be destroyed [(1) ninety] the later of: (1) Ninety days after the date of the alleged violation if a summons is not issued for such alleged violation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) upon final disposition of the case to which it pertains if a summons is issued for such alleged violation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, "municipal school bus violation enforcement system" means a system with one or more camera sensors and computers that produce: (1) Digital and recorded video images of motor vehicles being operated in violation of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (2) a visual image that is viewable remotely and a recorded image of the number plate of a motor vehicle violating an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (3) a recorded image that indicates the date, time and location of the violation.

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(b) (1) Any municipality, as defined in section 7-148 of the general statutes, may, by vote of its legislative body, adopt an ordinance to authorize the use of a municipal school bus violation enforcement system to enforce the provisions of subsection (a) of section 14-279 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, provided such ordinance: (A) Specifies that the owner of a motor vehicle commits a violation of the ordinance if the person operating such motor vehicle violates the provisions of subsection (a) of section 14-279 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, unless an affidavit is filed pursuant to subsection (j) of this section, (B) adopts the procedures described in this section and establishes a citation hearing procedure pursuant to section 7-152c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, which may include an option for in-person and virtual citation hearings, (C) establishes a fine for committing a violation of such ordinance in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars, (D) permits the municipality or its designated agent to collect such fines, with proceeds credited to the municipality, and (E) requires funds received by the municipality from such fines to be used for the purposes of improving public safety in such municipality, compensating any private vendor that installs, operates or maintains a municipal school bus violation enforcement system or both. Any such ordinance may require proof of a violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(2) No ordinance adopted by a municipality pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be effective if such municipality, the local or regional board of education serving such municipality or a private vendor under an agreement with such municipality or such board of education is operating a live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system pursuant to section 14-279a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(c) (1) A municipal school bus violation enforcement system installed to enforce an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this

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section shall, to the extent practicable, record images of the number plate of a motor vehicle only, and shall not record images of the occupants of such motor vehicle or of any other persons or vehicles in the vicinity at the time the images are recorded. A citation issued under an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may not be dismissed in a citation hearing solely because a recorded video or digital still image reveals images of such occupants or other persons or vehicles, as long as the operator of such system has made reasonable efforts to comply with the provisions of this subsection.

(2) A warning sign shall be posted on all school buses in which a municipal school bus violation enforcement system is installed and operated indicating the use of such system.

(d) (1) Upon receipt of an evidence file from a municipal school bus violation enforcement system that captures an alleged violation of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, a police officer or authorized municipal employee shall review such file. If such officer or employee has reasonable grounds to believe that such a violation occurred and such file captures the number plate, color and type of vehicle allegedly violating such ordinance and the date, approximate time and location of such violation, such officer or employee shall issue a written warning or citation to the owner of such vehicle. Such officer or employee shall electronically certify a citation, and such citation shall only be issued if mailed within the time period described in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) In the case of an alleged violation involving a motor vehicle registered in the state, the municipality, or its designated agent, shall send a copy of a citation to the owner of the motor vehicle observed in the alleged violation not later thirty days after the date of the alleged violation. In the case of an alleged violation involving a motor vehicle registered in another jurisdiction, the municipality, or its designated agent, shall send a copy of a citation to the address of the owner that is

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in the records of the official in the other jurisdiction issuing such registration not later than sixty days after the alleged violation.

(3) A citation issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall include: (A) The name and address of the owner of the motor vehicle; (B) the number plate of the motor vehicle; (C) the ordinance allegedly violated; (D) the date, location and time of the alleged violation; (E) a copy of or information on how to view, through electronic means, the recorded images described in this section; (F) a statement or electronically generated affirmation by the police officer or authorized employee who reviewed the recorded images and determined that the motor vehicle violated an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section; (G) the fine imposed pursuant to the ordinance and how to pay such fine; (H) notice of the right to contest the citation and instructions for how to request a citation hearing; and (I) information advising the owner of the motor vehicle of the procedure for disclaiming liability by submitting an affidavit as described in subsection (j) of this section to the municipality or its designated agent.

(e) A citation shall be sent by first class mail. A manual or automated record prepared by the police officer, authorized employee or vendor in the ordinary course of business shall be prima facie evidence of such mailing and shall be admissible in any citation hearing as to the facts contained in the citation.

(f) A certificate or facsimile of a certificate of the review of the evidence produced by the municipal school bus violation enforcement system, sworn to by the police officer or authorized municipal employee who conducted such review, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained in such certificate.

(g) The owner of a motor vehicle shall be liable for any fine imposed pursuant to an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this

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section, unless (1) the vehicle identified by a municipal school bus violation enforcement system is a leased or rented motor vehicle, in which case the lessee of such vehicle shall be liable for any such fine, or (2) an affidavit is filed pursuant to subsection (j) of this section, in which case the operator shall be liable for any such fine.

(h) A digital still or video image produced by a municipal school bus violation enforcement system shall be sufficient evidence of a violation of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and shall be admitted at a citation hearing proceeding without further authentication.

(i) All defenses shall be available to any person who is alleged to have committed a violation of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, including, but not limited to, that: (1) The operator was driving an emergency vehicle in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 14-283 of the general statutes, (2) the violation was necessary to allow the passage of an emergency vehicle, (3) the violation was necessary in order for the operator to comply with an order or direction from a law enforcement officer, which is observable on the recorded images, (4) the violation was necessary to avoid injuring the person or property of another, (5) the violation took place during a period of time in which the motor vehicle had been reported as being stolen to a law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, and had not been recovered prior to the time of the violation, or (6) the operator received a citation for a violation of section 14-279 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the same incident.

(j) Not later than thirty days after the mailing of a citation pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, the owner of a motor vehicle may submit a notarized affidavit, executed by such owner and the operator of such vehicle at the time of the alleged violation, stating that such operator is the party who may be responsible for the alleged

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violation and providing the name and address of such operator. If the municipality or its designated agent receives such an affidavit, the municipality shall mail a citation to such operator not later than thirty days after receipt of the affidavit.

(k) No recorded image produced by a municipal school bus violation enforcement system may be introduced as evidence in any other civil or criminal proceedings.

(l) A digital still or video image produced by a municipal school bus violation enforcement system to enforce an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be destroyed the later of: (1) Ninety days after the date of the creation of such digital still or video image, or (2) upon payment or final disposition of all matters related to a citation issued for a violation of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, to which such digital still or video image pertains.

(m) Violations of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall not be made part of the driving control record, as described in section 14-1111 of the general statutes, of such owner and may not be used for any purpose in the provision of a motor vehicle insurance policy.

(n) A municipality or local or regional board of education may enter into an agreement with a private vendor for the installation, operation or maintenance, or any combination thereof, of a municipal school bus violation enforcement system for purposes of enforcing an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Any such agreement that requires a vendor to operate such a system shall require such vendor to report to the municipality in which such system operates and the appropriate local or regional board of education, not later than August first following the vendor's first operation of such system pursuant to such agreement, and not later than August first in each year thereafter in which the operation of such system continues pursuant to

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such agreement: (1) The total number of citations issued in the prior fiscal year for violations of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section that were detected and recorded by the municipal school bus violation enforcement system, and (2) the total amount of funds collected for such violations in the prior fiscal year.

(o) (1) Each municipality that adopts an ordinance pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall, not later than October first following adoption of such an ordinance, and not later than October first in each year thereafter in which such ordinance is in effect, submit a report to the Department of Transportation, which shall include, but need not be limited to: (A) A copy of such ordinance, (B) the total number of citations issued for a violation of such ordinance in the prior fiscal year, (C) the total amount of funds collected for such violations in the prior fiscal year, and (D) how the municipality spent such funds in the prior fiscal year.

(2) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Department of Transportation shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security and transportation. Such report shall include copies of the ordinances and a summary of the information submitted to the department pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section.

Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 7-152c of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(c) Any such municipality, at any time within twelve months from the expiration of the final period for the uncontested payment of fines, penalties, costs or fees for any citation issued under any ordinance adopted pursuant to section 7-148, 14-307c, [or] 22a-226d [,] or section 4

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of this act for an alleged violation thereof, shall send notice to the person cited. Such notice shall inform the person cited: (1) Of the allegations against such person and the amount of the fines, penalties, costs or fees due; (2) that such person may contest such person's liability before a citation hearing officer by delivering in person or by mail written notice within ten days of the date thereof; (3) that if such person does not demand such a hearing, an assessment and judgment shall be entered against such person; and (4) that such judgment may issue without further notice. For purposes of this section, notice shall be presumed to have been properly sent if such notice was mailed to such person's last-known address on file with the tax collector. If the person to whom such notice is issued is a registrant, the municipality may deliver such notice in accordance with section 7-148ii, provided nothing in this section shall preclude a municipality from providing notice in another manner permitted by applicable law.

Approved June 4, 2024



School Bus Stop Arm Ordinance: Executive Overview

Advancing Student Safety Through Strategic Enforcement

Presented by: Sean Matteson, Chief of Staff

May 14, 2025





Purpose and Legislative Context

- This ordinance is guided by **Public Act 24-107**, of the 2024 Session of the Connecticut General Assembly, which authorizes the use of automated enforcement to deter vehicles from illegally passing stopped school busses.
- This ordinance aims to protect students during bus loading and unloading, when they are most vulnerable.
- This policy supports compliance with state school transportation safety mandates and promotes public trust in the district's safety priorities.





Strategic Goals of the Ordinance

Enhance Student Safety

- Promote **change** for risky behavior
- Mitigate risk by addressing illegal pass-bys of school buses

Support Law Enforcement

- Leverage **automated technology** to aid in identification and enforcement of violations
- Another **tool** to enforce safety

Drive Public Awareness

- **\$250 fine per State Statute**
- Place **warning signs** on all buses with cameras.
- Educate the community on state law and **safety expectations**.

Foster Accountability

- Establish **measurable benchmarks** and ensure continuous policy review.





Ordinance Implementation Timeline

April 2025 –
Planning & Policy Development

- Draft ordinance
- Legal review

May 2025 –
Technology Procurement

- Submit to BOA
- Draft & Issue RFP
- Press Conference

June 2025 –
Vendor Selection

- BOA First Read & Public comment
- Vendor selection

July 2025 –
BOA Review

- BOA Read
- Public Hearing

August 2025 -
BOA Approval & Agreement Final
Review

- BOA Second Read Approval
- Vendor contract review

September 2025 –
Deployment Training/
Launch & Enforcement

- Contract execution
- Install stop-arm equipment
- Train staff and NHPD
- Pilot equipment
- Begin enforcement





What We Aim to Achieve

- **Improve compliance** with school bus laws across the city
- **Reduce violations by 50%+** within the first 12 months of enforcement
- **Increase public confidence** in student transportation safety
- **Establish a replicable model** for other municipalities
- **Align with state policy** while generating enough revenue to make the vendor cost neutral





Questions?

