



Illegal School Bus Passing

September 10, 2019 Public Hearing

Mission: Together, we prepare our students for their future.

School Bus Illegal Passing

VDOE Survey Tool:

- Transportation department participated in voluntary annual survey conducted by bus drivers on designated dates: 2014 through 2017.
- Drivers observed and reported illegal passing by vehicles when buses were stopped and utilizing red lights and stop arms.

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VDOE Survey Tool Results

- April 9, 2014: 220 drivers reported 131 illegal vehicle passes.
- March 25, 2015: 210 drivers reported 112 illegal vehicle passes.
- March 2, 2016: 241 drivers reported 178 illegal vehicle passes.
- March 8, 2017: 227 drivers reported 141 illegal passes (VDOE then discontinued survey).

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- January 2019 HB 2344 was passed by the Va. House and Senate.
- Passage required DMV to release certain vehicle data to private vendors operating video monitoring systems on school buses.
- This helped settle former legal issues and Stop Arm Cameras are again a potential option to combat illegal school bus passing.

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How the Stop Arm Camera Process Works:

- Cameras are affixed to buses' front stop arms, which deploy when buses stop to pick up and deliver children.
- These cameras take pictures of the license plates of cars when they illegally pass buses.
- Pictures are sent electronically to vendor for pre-screening.

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How the Stop Arm Camera Process Works:

- Vendor then sends pictures of offending vehicles to the Sheriff's Department for verification of the offense.
- Each offense must be verified by law enforcement before offenders can be charged.
- An offending driver is sent a court summons via first class mail that includes a picture of their license plate as car illegally passed bus.

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How the Stop Arm Camera Process Works:

- Offending driver may pay a \$ 250 fine and waive appearance in civil court or may contest the offense and appear in court to defend.
- Typically, most vendors will install the Stop Arm Cameras on school buses without up-front costs to the school division in exchange for a pre-determined percentage of the fine.

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Stop Arm Camera Initiative Requirements:

- A local ordinance is required to authorize the school division to operate a video monitoring system on school buses.
- A solicitation from the division purchasing department is needed to select an appropriate vendor and to determine installation and revenue sharing details.

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Stop Arm Camera Initiative Requirements:

- A strong continued collaborative effort between the school division and the Sheriff's department is essential to instituting and maintaining enforcement efforts.
- A Memorandum of Understanding may be initiated between the school division and Sheriff's department to cover deputies' man hours spent verifying driver offenses.