



Arkansas House Newsletter

August 2, 2024

Flashing Red Kids Ahead



Every day during the school year, more than 350,000 Arkansas children depend on school buses to transport them safely to and from school. These buses make multiple stops in every community.

As a new school year approaches, we want to remind you that it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus in Arkansas.

The fines, penalties, and punishment for anyone found guilty of illegally passing a stopped school bus were increased dramatically by Act 2128 of 2005, also known as Isaac's Law. The legislation was named in memory of Isaac Brian, an elementary school student in the Bryant School District who was struck and killed when a driver illegally passed his school bus while students were exiting the vehicle.

The law requires drivers to stop on 2-lane and 4-lane highways in both directions, even those with a middle lane. Drivers cannot attempt to pass in any direction until the school bus vehicle has finished receiving or discharging its passengers and is in motion again.

In the 2021 Regular Session, the General Assembly passed Act 264 to clarify the distance and areas where drivers must stop. It states drivers must come to a complete stop no less than 30 feet from the bus when it stops to load or unload passengers. This 30-foot perimeter would apply to public roads, private or public property open to the general public, and any driveway or parking lot belonging to a public school.

Arkansans should also remember that the use of handheld wireless phones is prohibited in a school zone. In 2019, the General Assembly passed legislation making the use of a handheld phone in school zones a primary offense.

When a school bus comes to a halt and activates its flashing lights and stop arm, it is an indication that children are entering or exiting the bus.

Remember: Flashing Red means Kids Ahead.