



Missouri Senate
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Bill Protecting Lives of School Children Receives Senate Approval

JEFFERSON CITY—The Senate today gave approval to a bill sponsored by state Sen. Norma Champion, R-Springfield, preventing those with drunken-driving records from operating a school bus.

Senate Bill 584 forbids the issuance or renewal of a school bus endorsement to any applicant who has been convicted of an intoxicated-related traffic offense. If a person with a school bus operating license is found guilty of drunken driving, the license will be denied by the court, beginning on the date of the court action.

“We need to do all we can to keep our children out of harm’s way, including getting them to school and home safely,” said Champion. “By preventing those with a past of irresponsible and reckless behavior from getting behind the wheel of a school bus, we will significantly reduce the chances of our children’s lives being endangered on their way to and from school.”

The measure also increases the penalties for school bus drivers who are convicted of operating a school bus while their license is revoked. The offender would be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and fined a minimum of \$1,000.

“This legislation was drafted on behalf of all the parents and all the children who rely on school buses as a means of transportation,” Champion said. “We must not put the lives of Missouri children in the hands of irresponsible drivers.”

SB 584 now heads to the House for similar consideration. Once both chambers pass the bill, it will go to the governor to be signed into law.

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