

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered by _____ of _____

Amend SS/House Bill No. 661, Page 64, Section 304.001, Line 93,

2 by inserting after all of said line the following:

3 "304.050. 1. (1) The driver of a vehicle upon a
 4 highway upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any
 5 school bus which has stopped on the highway for the purpose
 6 of receiving or discharging any school children and whose
 7 driver has in the manner prescribed by law given the signal
 8 to stop, shall stop the vehicle before reaching such school
 9 bus and shall not proceed until such school bus resumes
 10 motion, or until signaled by its driver to proceed.

11 (2) School buses under the provisions of subsections
 12 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this section shall include Head
 13 Start buses that have been certified by the Missouri highway
 14 patrol as meeting the provisions of section 307.375, are
 15 operated by a holder of a valid school bus endorsed
 16 commercial driver's license, and who meet the equivalent
 17 medical requirements prescribed in section 162.604, and
 18 which are transporting Head Start students to and from Head
 19 Start.

20 2. Every bus used for the transportation of school
 21 children shall bear upon the front and rear thereon a
 22 plainly visible sign containing the words "school bus" in
 23 letters not less than eight inches in height. Each bus
 24 shall have lettered on the rear in plain and distinct type
 25 the following: "State Law: Stop while bus is loading and
 26 unloading". Each school bus subject to the provisions of

27 sections 304.050 to 304.070 shall be equipped with a
28 mechanical and electrical signaling device approved by the
29 state board of education, which will display a signal
30 plainly visible from the front and rear and indicating
31 intention to stop.

32 3. Every school bus operated to transport students in
33 the public school system which has a gross vehicle weight
34 rating of more than ten thousand pounds, which has the
35 engine mounted entirely in front of the windshield and the
36 entrance door behind the front wheels, and which is used for
37 the transportation of school children shall be equipped no
38 later than August 1, 1998, with a crossing control arm. The
39 crossing control arm, when activated, shall extend a minimum
40 of five feet six inches from the face of the front bumper.
41 The crossing control arm shall be attached on the right side
42 of the front bumper and shall be activated by the same
43 controls which activate the mechanical and electrical
44 signaling devices described in subsection 2 of this
45 section. This subsection may be cited as "Jessica's Law" in
46 commemoration of Jessica Leicht and all other Missouri
47 schoolchildren who have been injured or killed during the
48 operation of a school bus.

49 4. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the
50 driver of a school bus in the process of loading or
51 unloading students upon a street or highway shall activate
52 the mechanical and electrical signaling devices, in the
53 manner prescribed by the state board of education, to
54 communicate to drivers of other vehicles that students are
55 loading or unloading. A public school district shall have
56 the authority pursuant to this section to adopt a policy
57 which provides that the driver of a school bus in the
58 process of loading or unloading students upon a divided
59 highway of four or more lanes may pull off of the main

60 roadway and load or unload students without activating the
61 mechanical and electrical signaling devices in a manner
62 which gives the signal for other drivers to stop and may use
63 the amber signaling devices to alert motorists that the
64 school bus is slowing to a stop; provided that the
65 passengers are not required to cross any traffic lanes and
66 also provided that the emergency flashing signal lights are
67 activated in a manner which indicates that drivers should
68 proceed with caution, and in such case, the driver of a
69 vehicle may proceed past the school bus with due caution.

70 5. No driver of a school bus shall take on or
71 discharge passengers at any location upon a highway
72 consisting of four or more lanes of traffic, whether or not
73 divided by a median or barrier, in such manner as to require
74 the passengers to cross more than two lanes of traffic; nor
75 shall any passengers be taken on or discharged while the
76 vehicle is upon the road or highway proper unless the
77 vehicle so stopped is plainly visible for at least five
78 hundred feet in each direction to drivers of other vehicles
79 in the case of a highway with no shoulder and a speed limit
80 greater than sixty miles per hour and at least three hundred
81 feet in each direction to drivers of other vehicles upon
82 other highways, and on all highways, only for such time as
83 is actually necessary to take on and discharge passengers.

84 [5.] 6. The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with
85 separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or overtaking a
86 school bus which is on a different roadway, or which is
87 proceeding in the opposite direction on a highway containing
88 four or more lanes of traffic, or which is stopped in a
89 loading zone constituting a part of, or adjacent to, a
90 limited or controlled access highway at a point where
91 pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.

92 [6.] 7. The driver of any school bus driving upon the
93 highways of this state after loading or unloading school
94 children, shall remain stopped if the bus is followed by
95 three or more vehicles, until such vehicles have been
96 permitted to pass the school bus, if the conditions
97 prevailing make it safe to do so.

98 [7.] 8. If any vehicle is witnessed by a peace officer
99 or the driver of a school bus to have violated the
100 provisions of this section and the identity of the operator
101 is not otherwise apparent, it shall be a rebuttable
102 presumption that the person in whose name such vehicle is
103 registered committed the violation. In the event that
104 charges are filed against multiple owners of a motor
105 vehicle, only one of the owners may be convicted and court
106 costs may be assessed against only one of the owners. If
107 the vehicle which is involved in the violation is registered
108 in the name of a rental or leasing company and the vehicle
109 is rented or leased to another person at the time of the
110 violation, the rental or leasing company may rebut the
111 presumption by providing the peace officer or prosecuting
112 authority with a copy of the rental or lease agreement in
113 effect at the time of the violation. No prosecuting
114 authority may bring any legal proceedings against a rental
115 or leasing company under this section unless prior written
116 notice of the violation has been given to that rental or
117 leasing company by registered mail at the address appearing
118 on the registration and the rental or leasing company has
119 failed to provide the rental or lease agreement copy within
120 fifteen days of receipt of such notice.

121 [8.] 9. Notwithstanding the provisions in section
122 301.130, every school bus shall be required to have two
123 license plates."; and

124 Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.