



Legislation Text

File #: Res 1769-2013, **Version:** *

Res. No. 1769

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign legislation to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) to authorize the use of a photographic ticketing system to detect drivers who illegally pass school buses that are loading and unloading passengers.

By Council Members Greenfield, Comrie, Koo, Koppell, Palma, Richards, Rose and Wills

Whereas, In 2012, the New York City Police Department issued over 3,000 summonses to vehicles that failed to stop for a school bus; and

Whereas, Under New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) section 1174(a) a vehicle must stop when a school bus has stopped to discharge or pick-up passengers; and

Whereas, New York State Senator Gregory R. Ball has introduced S.2646 to authorize the use of school bus cameras as prima facie evidence of a violation under VTL section 1174(a); and

Whereas, Since 2003, the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee has sponsored "Operation Safe Stop Day" when enforcement is increased in order to raise awareness that vehicles must stop for school buses; and

Whereas, In 2012, "Operation Safe Stop Day" resulted in over 1,300 summonses being issued to drivers who failed to stop for a school bus; and

Whereas, School buses are equipped with special stop signs that flash when a school bus has stopped to pick up or drop off passengers; and

Whereas, Currently there is legislation pending in the New York State Legislature, A.0519 and S.0374, that would increase penalties on drivers who overtake and pass a stopped school bus in the course of receiving or discharging passengers; and

Whereas, School districts across the nation have begun to install cameras on school buses in order to

catch drivers who fail to stop for buses; and

Whereas, According to USA Today, Cobb County, Georgia, installed cameras on 102 school buses, and the program has yielded over 2,000 summonses; and

Whereas, The Georgia program was instituted following a 2009 accident, where a kindergartener was killed because a driver failed to stop for a school bus; and

Whereas, Other jurisdictions that have installed cameras on school buses include Stratford, Connecticut and Falls Church, Virginia; and

Whereas, In New York City, Community Education liaisons have called for cameras to be installed on school buses, and refer to success of red light cameras in reducing traffic fatalities in support this proposal; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York call upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign legislation to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) to authorize the use of a photographic ticketing system to detect drivers who illegally pass school buses that are loading and unloading passengers.

LS#3667
5/9/2013
GZ