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# FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 71250

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1250

(907) 452-2000

February 1, 1991

Representative Navarre  
PO Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Navarre:

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my support for your efforts, through House Bill 85, to require strobe lights on school buses.

I am currently the transportation coordinator for the FNSB School District, a position I have held for the past 10 years. I have also been a member of the Alaska delegation to the 1985 and 1990 Conferences on National Minimum Standards for school buses. In addition, I participated in the development of the Alaska School Bus Driver Training Program and the Alaska Enhanced School Bus Inspection Program.

One of the major ways to protect the school bus and its passengers is to ensure that other motorists are aware of its presence. A "safety cushion" around a school bus is created by the unique color and lighting equipment that are part of existing school bus standards. This allows the motorists on the road the opportunity to take extra precautions, knowing that school children are nearby. Strobe lights, in the stop arm and on the roof, increase the effectiveness of this "safety cushion".

We have used white strobe lights on the tops of our school buses in Fairbanks for at least 15 years. (They have been on so long that no one remembers when they were first required.) They are particularly effective in the difficult conditions of darkness, snow, and ice fog in which we operate in Fairbanks. Under adverse conditions drivers are aware of the strobe long before seeing the actual bus itself. This can be a critical safety feature when visibility is reduced to less than 50 feet.

The best measure of the usefulness of strobes that I can offer is the public awareness their presence. The strobes are so much a part of school busing in Fairbanks that monitoring for compliance is not necessary. The public is so accustomed to seeing strobes on our buses that my office receives complaints when a bus


is running around without a strobe.

We have no direct experience with strobe in the stop paddles in Fairbanks. However, they were tested as part of a pilot project of the Alaska School Bus Safety Committee, and proved effective there as well. I have observed them on buses in the Kenai Peninsula area and found the strobes to be a great improvement over standard paddle lights.

Your efforts to increase the "safety cushion" around our school buses through the mandatory use of strobes is supported throughout the pupil transportation industry. The significant increase in safety certainly warrants the small additional cost to the price of an entire school bus. Your efforts to retrofit the existing buses in the state will create an immediate impact for a relatively low cost. Such an approach is far superior to a slow phase-in on new buses. In addition to the several year delay in equipping all buses in the state, the effort to raise public awareness would be diminished by the lack of standardized equipment between buses.

Thank you for your support of safe, effective pupil transportation. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to your efforts.

Sincerely,



Bob Shefchik  
Transportation Coordinator

Tom



# ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pupil Transportation  
3580 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
Area Code 907 — 563-3022

FAX 907-562-3957

February 4, 1991

Representative Mike Navarre  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
FAX 465-2278

Dear Representative Navarre,

The Anchorage School District believes that the addition of red strobe lights to the stop arm and white strobe lights to the roof of school buses will enhance school bus safety. All buses in our District, as well as Contracted bus fleets, have been equipped with red strobe lights on the stop arm since September 1989. The addition of these strobe lights has significantly reduced the number of motorists who pass stopped school buses. We also feel that the addition of roof mounted white strobe lights will further increase the visibility of school buses and increase the awareness of the presence of school buses with the general motoring public. Approximately 60% of the fleet have already been equipped with roof mounted strobe lights. The District made roof mounted strobe lights mandatory in our current transportation contracts. After the buses were delivered and began operating the Anchorage Police Department notified me that these lights were illegal and school bus drivers using the lights would be issued citations (see attached letter).

The Anchorage School District would support passage of House Bill 85 if the bill not only mandates installation of white roof mounted strobe lights, but also addresses use of the lights. I would also like to see an exception made on the location of the lights that are already installed. The Anchorage School District has almost fifty buses that have strobe lights mounted in the center of the roof.

Thank you for the interest that you have shown in school bus safety issues. If you need any additional information feel free to contact me at 563-3022.

Sincerely,

Steven Kalnes  
Director of Transportation Services



# ALASKA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 5, 1991

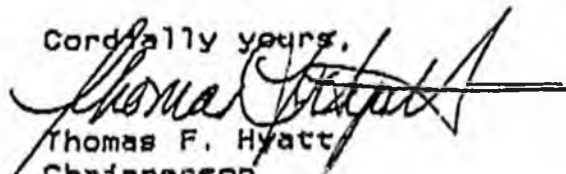
Representative Mike Navarre  
P.O. Box V, Room 515  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Sir:

The Alaska School Bus Safety Committee strongly supports House Bill 85, an act requiring school bus stop arms with alternating red strobe lights and a roof mounted white strobe light. The Safety Committee has researched and evaluated aspects of both strobe light systems and found them very effective in the visibility enhancement of school buses during Alaska's inclement weather. Alaska's unique and varied weather conditions severely limit visibility of school buses during their most vulnerable period, the loading and unloading of students.

It is also imperative that the Legislature supply the funding for these projects. Currently, school districts throughout the State are having their pupil transportation reimbursement funds prorated by the Department of Education due to funding short falls. The proposed budget by the Governor suggests further reductions in pupil transportation reimbursement funds. Additionally, school bus operators throughout the State are suffering the effects of extraordinary high fuel costs with no relief from these expenses. It would be unfair to ask either the Districts or Bus Operators to shoulder the expense for these items.

Cordially yours,



Thomas F. Hyatt  
Chairperson

TFH/ec

## OUTLINE FOR HB 85

### TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER, PRESIDING

#### I. Purpose of HB 85

1. To mandate the installation of two red strobes on the stop arm, and one white strobe to the roof of each bus ( not more than 6 feet from the rear of the bus).
2. HB 85 creates a "safety cushion" around the bus, due to the installation of this special and highly visible lighting equipment.
3. Strobes on the roof and the stop arm increase the effectiveness of the "safety cushion" and make the public more aware that children are in the immediate vicinity.
4. All modifications would be completed by November 1, 1991.

#### II. Support for HB 85

1. Bob Shefchik, Transportation Coordinator, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.
2. Steven Kalmes, Director of Transportation, Anchorage School District
3. Thomas F. Hyatt, Alaska School Bus Safety Committee
4. Don Oberg, President, NEA-Alaska
5. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

#### III. Anticipated Costs for HB 85

1. A fiscal note is attached to the bill packet. The amount is \$168,000. The State will reimburse for initial installation (with proper documentation to DOE) at the rate of \$175/roof mounted strobes and \$150/stop arm strobes. The initial installation must be completed by November 1, 1991. The estimate was derived from Sahlberg Equipment in Anchorage.

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1  
 Bill Version: CSHB 85(TRA)  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/11/91

STATE OF ALASKA  
 1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Education  
 Title: Equipment required on a school bus BRU: K-12 Support  
 Component: Pupil Transportation  
 Sponsor: Navarre  
 Requestor: House Transportation COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	168.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	168.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Roof Mount Strobes: 630 buses X \$175 = \$110,250 Stop Arm Strobes: 385 buses X \$150 = \$57,750

Total estimated FY92 cost: \$168,000

Prepared By: Romayne Kareen Phone: 465-2865  
 Division: Education Finance & Support Date: 2/6/91  
 Approved by Commissioner: Steve Helle, Acting Commissioner  
 Agency: Education Date: 2/6/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

Tom

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 North Binkley Street • Soldotna, AK 99669 • Phone 907/262-5846 • Fax 907/262-1892



FEBRUARY 1, 1991

Representative Mike Navarre  
Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Navarre:

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District supports the introduction of HB 85, making stop arm strobes and white strobes on the roof of the bus part of the standard bus equipment in our state. We feel both lights enhance the safety of student riders.

Our district has used the stop arm strobe for the past three years and because it has proven effective, it was specified as an equipment requirement in our current bus contracts. Other districts in the state are using the white roof strobe and it has proven effective.

We would request that the bill provide districts and contractors with reimbursement for the initial equipment expenses. It appears that DOE will be lacking in funds to reimburse school districts for school bus transportation next year and we would not want to see an additional expense to that fund that would reduce transportation reimbursement even further.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Penny Little  
Transportation Coordinator

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL GOVERNOR

GOLDBELT PLACE  
881 WEST 10TH STREET  
P.O. BOX F  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0500

February 27, 1991

The Honorable Mike Navarre  
Alaska State Representative  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Navarre:

Re: CSHB 85 (Transportation) "An Act relating to strobe light equipment required on a school bus; and providing for an effective date."

Pursuant to conversations yesterday between Tom Ackerly of your staff and Romaine Kareen of mine, the Department of Education offers the following comments regarding CSHB 85 (Transportation):

1. The intent of this legislation is to require that existing public school buses be retrofitted with stop arm and roof mounted strobe lights by November 1, 1991. Funds would be appropriated to cover the cost of installation of strobes on school buses that are not already required by contract to be so equipped. We agree with the intent of the bill and support accompanying funding (the fiscal note).
2. An alternative to the fiscal note would be for the department to reimburse districts at the rates specified in the bill using the current appropriation level. If this is the alternative chosen by the Legislature, the fiscal note should be zeroed out and the legislation passed.
3. We have no objection to the Legislature specifying that strobe lights be included in equipment requirements established by the department. Current equipment requirements, known as Minimum Standards for Alaska School Buses, are contained in publications referenced in 4 AAC 27.110.

The department will be revising the standards to incorporate requirements of AS 28.05.104(b)(1) and recommendations of the 11th National Conference on School Transportation. The revised standards will apply to school buses manufactured after March 1, 1992. A committee comprised of school bus contractors, school district administrators and department staff will meet during September, 1991 to recommend specific revisions to standards. Strobe lights in stop arms and on rooftops of school buses may or may not be recommended

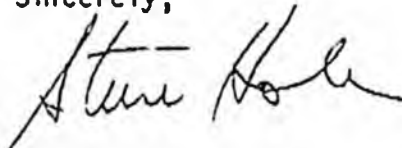
February 27, 1991

by the committee. Passage of CSHB 85 (Transportation) would require inclusion of strobe lights in the standards.

4. The department will notify school districts and bus contractors in March, 1991 that:
  - (1) legislation is in process that would require all public school buses to be retrofitted with stop arm and roof mounted strobe lights by November 1, 1991;
  - (2) the legislation includes funding to reimburse districts for contractor and district costs to install required strobe lights on buses that are not already required by contract to be so equipped; and
  - (3) if the bill is signed into law, installation of strobe lights will be included as mandatory equipment effective November 1, 1991 on all school buses used to transport school children to or from a public school. Installation of strobe lights after November 1, 1991 will not be eligible for state reimbursement.
5. Attached is a listing of school districts with more than 15 buses that have strobe lights required by either the contract between the district and bus contractor, or the reimbursement agreement between the department and the district.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Romyne Kareen at 465-2890.

Sincerely,



Steve Hole  
Acting Commissioner

Attachment

cc: Jim Tozer  
Romyne Kareen

CSHB 85 (Transportation)

Estimated Number of School Buses  
Required by Contract to have Strobe Lights  
2/27/91

SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
(more than 15 buses)

ESTIMATED # BUSES  
REQUIRED BY CONTRACT TO BE EQUIPPED

Roof-Mounted Strobe Lights

Anchorage	170	
Fairbanks	135	
Estimated Total	<u>305</u>	Buses

Stop Arm Strobe Lights

Anchorage	286	
Mat-Su	129	
Kenai	97	
Estimated Total	<u>512</u>	Buses

FY-92 FISCAL NOTE: \$173,700

Roof-Mounted Strobe Lights

Approximate # Buses in State:	935 Buses
Less Estimated # Required by Contract to be Equipped	305
Potential # to be Retrofitted	<u>630 Buses @ \$175 = \$110,250</u>

Stop Arm Strobe Lights

Approximate # Buses in State:	935 Buses
Less Estimated # Required by Contract to be Equipped	512
Potential # to be Retrofitted	<u>423 Buses @ \$150 = \$63,450</u>

Potential Cost to State	<u>\$173,700</u>
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# ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

4501 SOUTH BRAGAW STREET • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507-1599  
TELEPHONE (907) 786-8500



TOM FINK  
MAYOR

Steve Kalmes  
Director of Transportation Services  
3580 E. Tudor  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99507

August 4, 1988

Dear Director Kalmes,

You recently made an inquiry of Sergeant Greg Stewart regarding the use of a white strobe light on top of school buses.

A review of Anchorage Municipal Code of Ordinances title 9.44.210 (C) relating to vehicular hazard warning signals states that a dual lateral lighting system facing the front and rear of a bus is allowed.

The front lamps may flash simultaneously a white or amber light, or any color between white and amber. The rear lamps may only show simultaneously flashing amber or red light.


Municipal Prosecutor Jim Wolf interprets the lighting equipment ordinances of title 9 to mean that no white light may be displayed to the rear of any vehicle, regardless of the mounted position.

A review of the State of Alaska statutes indicates a similar finding.

School buses equipped with the roof mounted white strobe lighting system should be modified with an amber lens or removed completely. Any buses with a white strobe light activated to the rear may receive a traffic citation if observed by an officer.

If you have additional questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact sergeant Greg Stewart at 786-2703.

Sincerely,

  
Ted Carlson, Captain  
Uniform Field Services



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4501 SOUTH BRAGAW STREET • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507-1599  
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## ALASKA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 5, 1991

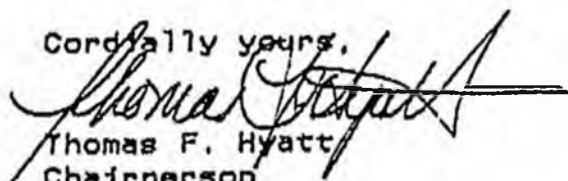
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P.O. Box V, Room 515  
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It is also imperative that the Legislature supply the funding for these projects. Currently, school districts throughout the State are having their pupil transportation reimbursement funds prorated by the Department of Education due to funding short falls. The proposed budget by the Governor suggests further reductions in pupil transportation reimbursement funds. Additionally, school bus operators throughout the State are suffering the effects of extraordinary high fuel costs with no relief from these expenses. It would be unfair to ask either the Districts or Bus Operators to shoulder the expense for these items.

Cordially yours,

  
Thomas F. Hyatt  
Chairperson

TFH/ec

*Tom*



**ANCHORAGE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Pupil Transportation

3580 East Tudor Road

Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Area Code 907 — 583-3022

FAX 907-562-3957

February 4, 1991

Representative Mike Navarre  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
FAX 465-2278

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Thank you for the interest that you have shown in school bus safety issues. If you need any additional information feel free to contact me at 563-3022.

Sincerely,

Steven Kalmes  
Director of Transportation Services



# NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
(907) 274-0536

## JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
(907) 586-3090

## FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
(907) 456-4435

February 1, 1991

Rep. Mike Navarre  
Alaska State Legislature  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Rep. Navarre:

NEA-Alaska appreciates and supports your desire to improve school bus safety. It is very important that the safety of our children remain paramount and your legislation appears to meet those needs. If we can be of any assistance please let us know.

Sincerely,

Don Oberg  
President



# FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 71250

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1250

(907) 452-2000

---

February 1, 1991

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PO Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

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Thank you for your support of safe, effective pupil transportation. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to your efforts.

Sincerely,



Bob Shefchik  
Transportation Coordinator

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CSHB 85 An Act relating to strobe light equipment required on a school bus; and providing for an effective date.

1. CSHB 85 (TRA)
2. Fiscal Note on CSHB 85 (TRA) - Education
3. Minutes, House Transportation Committee, 2/7/91
4. Transportation Committee Report - 2/7/91
5. Outline for HB 85 and support letters - Transportation Committee
6. NEA - Alaska letter of support to HESS Committee
7. HB 85

Note: Anchorage requested that they be grandfathered in because they have 50 buses with roof strobes in the center of the bus. They are to be phased out. Transportation Minutes, p. 2, Rep. Hudson moved that staff draft an amendment that would grandfather in those school buses that have roof strobe lights - at page 1, line 10 -- so adopted.

CSHB 85 (TRA), page 1, line 10, is identical to HB 85 -- THE REQUESTED REVISION IS AT PAGE 2, LINE 13.

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**REPRESENTATIVE MIKE NAVARRE**

Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-3779

**MEMORANDUM**

February 24, 1991

**TO: Representative Pat Carney, Co-Chairman, HESS Committee**  
**Representative Georgianna, Co-Chairman, HESS Committee**

**FROM: Representative Mike Navarre**

**SUBJECT: House Bill 85, "An Act relating to strobe light equipment on a school bus; and providing for an effective date."**

.....

House Bill 85 addresses a long overdue safety issue involving school buses. This legislation will mandate the installation of two flashing strobes on the stop arm and a white strobe at least six feet from the rear of the bus. The visibility afforded by these equipment additions will without question offer a greater measure of safety for the school children of Alaska.

HB 85 provides funding for the initial installation of the required strobes. The Department of Education will require proper documentation from the school districts for reimbursement. Minimum standards will be adopted by the Department of Education. Deadline for completion of the installation of the safety strobes would be November 1, 1991. In conversations with some of the larger districts this deadline appears to be workable.

The number of buses in Alaska is approximately 700. Some districts have some of the required equipment and some have none of the safety strobes. The newly revised fiscal note is \$ 173,700.00.

Letters of support are attached to this memorandum. There are no known opponents to providing school students a safer means to get to school.

Contact person: Tom Ackerly at 3779/ Capitoi 515

DISTRICT 5

34824 K-Beach Road • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 262-7842



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB85

Revision Date: 2/21/91 Department Affected: Education

Title: Equipment required on a school bus BRU: K-12 Support

Component: Pupil Transportation

Sponsor: Navarre

Requestor: House Transportation

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS. CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	173.7	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	173.7	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)  
  
See attached

Prepared By: Romayne Kareen Phone: 465-2865

Division: Education Finance & Support Date: 2/21/91

Approved by Commissioner: Steve Hole, Acting Commissioner

Agency: Education Date: 2/21/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

Revision Date: 2/21/91

This fiscal note is updated to reflect revised estimates provided to the department by school districts for the number of Stop Arm Strobes needed under HB85.

Roof Mount Strobes:

630 buses X \$175 = \$110,250

Stop Arm Strobes:

423 buses X \$150 = \$63,450

Total estimated FY92 cost: \$173,700

MINUTES, HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, 02/07/91

CHAIRMAN FOSTER ANNOUNCED THAT HB 85 WOULD BE THE FIRST BILL TAKEN UP BY THE COMMITTEE. HE REQUESTED THE SPONSOR MAKE A PRESENTATION.

REPRESENTATIVE NAVARRE OUTLINED THE PURPOSE OF HB 85. HE STATED THAT THE BILL MANDATES THE INSTALLATION OF STROBE LIGHTS ON SCHOOL BUSES. TWO RED STROBES WOULD BE REQUIRED ON THE STOP ARM, AND ONE WHITE STROBE WOULD NEED TO BE ATTACHED TO THE ROOF OF EACH BUS. THE SPONSOR EXPLAINED THE SAFETY BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH A HIGHLY VISIBLE LIGHTING SYSTEM. HE INFORMED MEMBERS THAT ALL MODIFICATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 1, 1991. LETTERS OF SUPPORT BY THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE FAIRBANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT, ALASKA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY COMMITTEE AND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA) WERE REFERRED TO BY REPRESENTATIVE NAVARRE.

THE SPONSOR BELIEVES THAT THE \$168,000 COST ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THESE REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE BORNE BY THE STATE. A FISCAL NOTE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) ESTIMATES THAT 630 SCHOOL BUSES WOULD REQUIRE ROOF MOUNT STROBES AND 385 BUSES WOULD REQUIRE INSTALLATION OF STOP ARM STROBES.

CHAIRMAN FOSTER NOTED THE ARRIVAL OF REP. HUDSON AT 8:36 A.M.

TWO AMENDMENTS WERE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE NAVARRE. PAGE 1, LINE 1, FOLLOWING "TO" INSERT THE WORDS "STROBE LIGHT."

THE SECOND AMENDMENT WAS THEN EXPLAINED BY THE SPONSOR. HE INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT HB 85 SPECIFICALLY REQUIRES A WHITE STROBE LIGHT BE ATTACHED TO THE ROOF OF EACH BUS NOT MORE THAN SIX FEET FROM THE REAR. ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS ASKED FOR A "GRANDFATHER" CLAUSE TO EXCLUDE SOME OF THEIR CURRENT FLEET OF BUSES FROM THIS REQUIREMENT. APPROXIMATELY 50 OF THEIR BUSES HAVE ROOF STROBES THAT ARE LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF THE BUS. THESE BUSES WOULD BE PHASED OUT AS NEW BUSES ARE PURCHASED.

REP. LEMAN ASKED IF IT IS NECESSARY TO BE SO SPECIFIC IN STATUTE ABOUT THE LOCATION AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE STROBE LIGHTS. HE BELIEVES THE DEPARTMENT HAS THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS THROUGH REGULATIONS RATHER THAN STATUTE. REP. NAVARRE AGREED WITH REP. LEMAN, HOWEVER HE EMPHASIZED THE TREMENDOUS SAFETY BENEFITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THESE LIGHTS. THE SPONSOR EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO CLEARLY MANDATE THESE REQUIREMENTS IN STATUTE

NUMBER 120

REP. MACKIE COMMUNICATED HIS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS.

REP. PHILLIPS INQUIRED IF THE LIGHTS WERE BEING REQUIRED ON THE STOP ARMS TO BALANCE THINGS OUT. REP. NAVARRE INFORMED HER THEY WERE. SHE THEN EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 85.

REP. HUDSON ASKED IF THE FISCAL NOTE WAS AN ESTIMATE OR IF IT WAS BASED ON A PER CAPITA AMOUNT. REP. NAVARRE REPLIED THAT IT WAS AN ESTIMATE BASED ON THE NUMBER OF BUSES AND THE COST PER BUS.

NUMBER 160

REP. KUBINA MADE THE MOTION TO INSERT THE WORDS "STROBE LIGHT" AFTER "TO" ON PAGE 1, LINE 1. HEARING NO OBJECTIONS THE MOTION PASSED.

DISCUSSION THEN TOOK PLACE REGARDING THE WORDING FOR THE SECOND AMENDMENT. REP. HUDSON MOVED THAT HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE STAFF DRAFT AN AMENDMENT THAT WOULD GRANDFATHER IN THOSE SCHOOL BUSES THAT ALREADY HAVE ROOF STROBE LIGHTS. HUDSON STATED THAT THIS AMENDMENT SHOULD COMMENCE ON PAGE 1, LINE 10, AND SHOULD BE A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT. CHAIRMAN FOSTER ASKED IF ANY MEMBERS OBJECTED TO THE MOTION TO ADOPTED A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ON PAGE 1, LINE 10. HEARING NO OBJECTIONS, IT WAS SO ORDERED.

REP. HUDSON MOVED HB 85, AS AMENDED, OUT WITH INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS. HEARING NO OBJECTIONS, HB 85 AMENDED MOVED FROM THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

## OUTLINE FOR HB 85

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER, PRESIDING

### I. Purpose of HB 85

1. To mandate the installation of two red strobes on the stop arm, and one white strobe to the roof of each bus ( not more than 6 feet from the rear of the bus).
2. HB 85 creates a "safety cushion" around the bus, due to the installation of this special and highly visible lighting equipment.
3. Strobes on the roof and the stop arm increase the effectiveness of the "safety cushion" and make the public more aware that children are in the immediate vicinity.
4. All modifications would be completed by November 1, 1991.

### II. Support for HB 85

1. Bob Shefchik, Transportation Coordinator, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.
2. Steven Kalmes, Director of Transportation, Anchorage School District
3. Thomas F. Hyatt, Alaska School Bus Safety Committee
4. Don Oberg President, NEA-Alaska
5. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

### III. Anticipated Costs for HB 85

1. A fiscal note is attached to the bill packet. The amount is \$168,000. The State will reimburse for initial installation (with proper documentation to DOE) at the rate of \$175/roof mounted strobes and \$150/stop arm strobes. The initial installation must be completed by November 1, 1991. The estimate was derived from Sahlberg Equipment in Anchorage.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: January 30, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS: Health, Education and Social Services  
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 2/7/91

The TRANSPORTATION Committee considered:

HB 85

HOUSE BILL NO. 85

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY EQUIPMENT

"An Act relating to equipment required on a school bus; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with CS HB 85 [ ] the same title

[x] a new title

[ ] have attached amendments(s)

[x] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] no recommendations

[ ] individual recommendations

[ ] additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

[x] fiscal impact D.O.E

[ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

	Check appropriate column:	Do Not	No Rec	Amend
		Pass		
<i>James M. ...</i>				
<i>Paul Phillips</i>				
<i>Arwen D. Berman</i>				
<i>Eugene Medina</i>				
<i>Bill Hudson</i>				
<i>Richard ...</i>				

*Richard ...*  
Chairman's Signature



# NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
(907) 274-0536

## JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
(907) 586-3090

## FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
(907) 456-4435

February 1, 1991

Rep. Mike Navarre  
Alaska State Legislature  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Rep. Navarre:

NEA-Alaska appreciates and supports your desire to improve school bus safety. It is very important that the safety of our children remain paramount and your legislation appears to meet those needs. If we can be of any assistance please let us know.

Sincerely,

Don Oberg  
President