

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6107

BILL NUMBER: HB 1021

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 9, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Disregarding School Bus Stop Sign.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Crouch

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Enhanced Penalty for Bodily Injury:* The bill increases the penalty for recklessly passing a stopped school bus displaying an extended arm signal device from a Class B to a Class A misdemeanor if the offense causes bodily injury to a person.

Suspension of Driving Privileges: It requires a court to recommend the driving license suspension of a person who recklessly commits certain offenses resulting in bodily injury.

(The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Sentencing Policy Study Committee.)

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Suspension of Driving Privileges:* The court currently notifies the Bureau of Motor Vehicles of a suspended driver's license. No fiscal impact is expected since the court already suspends a person's driving privileges for not less than 30 days or more than one year for a person who operates a vehicle recklessly and damages the property of another person.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Enhanced Penalty for Bodily Injury:* There are no data available to indicate how many offenders would be convicted of a Class A misdemeanor for causing bodily injury to another person as the result of recklessly passing a school bus that has stopped on the roadway with arm signal device extended. The underlying offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Revenue to the Common School Fund may increase if a person is sentenced for a Class A misdemeanor rather than for a Class B misdemeanor. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000, while the

maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. Court fees of \$120 would remain unchanged.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Enhanced Penalty for Bodily Injury:* Costs to local governments could increase because the maximum term of imprisonment for a Class B misdemeanor is up to 180 days, while the maximum term for a Class A misdemeanor is up to one year. The average daily cost of housing a prisoner is an approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Enhanced Penalty for Bodily Injury:* Court fees of \$120 would remain unchanged.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts; local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Indiana Sheriffs' Association.

Fiscal Analyst: Karen Firestone, 317-234-2106.