



**SUPPORT Video Recording Devices on Schoolbuses
A1520-A (Magnarelli)/S3509-A(Young)**

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the education law, in relation to authorizing the installation and use of safety cameras on school buses for the purpose of monitoring overtaking and passing of school bus violations; to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the public officers law, in relation to owner liability for an operator illegally overtaking or passing a school bus; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

BACKGROUND:

This bill will allow school buses in New York to be equipped with video recording devices that capture images of the license plate of a passing vehicle and allow for those images to be used in issuing tickets and fines to the owner of the vehicle involved in the passing.

NEED:

New York State law requires all motorists who approach a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing to STOP for that school bus on the anticipation that children will be entering or exiting. However, the New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) has estimated that more than 50,000 motorists pass stopped school buses *every day* of the school year. The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee reported just this week that on the April 16, 2015, Operation SAFE STOP Day, some 1,186 tickets were written by the police to motorists who had illegally passed a stopped school bus that had their red lights flashing. Moreover, a recent one-day survey of some 2,600 school bus drivers showed that some 54,350 illegal passes occurred on that day, including nearly 1,600 passes on the passenger side of the school bus where children board and depart the bus. These statistics are disturbing and illustrate the need for measures to protect the safety of New York's children as they travel to and from school.

KEY COMPONENTS:

- Bill would authorize, but not mandate, installation of video recording devices on school buses.
- Both school districts and transportation contractors would be protected from criminal and civil liability resulting from operation of the cameras.
- Video images would be forwarded to law enforcement for processing.
- Cameras would record license plates exclusively, not drivers.

Tri-State Transportation Campaign *strongly supports* this legislation.