

**SUFFOLK COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**  
**RICHARD H. SCHNEIDER – 2015 CHAIR**  
**PO BOX 266, MANORVILLE, NY 11949**

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD STRONGLY  
SUPPORTS**

**S. 3509A/YOUNG --- A. 1520A/MAGNARELLI**

*A bill to enhance the safety of our children by allowing school buses to be equipped with Stop Arm Cameras to assist in the apprehension of motorists who illegally pass stopped school buses and related provisions*

The Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board **strongly SUPPORTS** the bill **S. 3509A-Young/A.1520A-Magnarelli** that would strengthen our capacity in New York State to utilize new Stop Arm Camera technology to apprehend motorists who put our children at risk by passing stopped school buses illegally.

Illegal passing is a serious traffic safety matter requiring cooperative efforts of our state, schools and law enforcement partners. Since 1993, NYAPT has engaged in educational and enforcement programs like *OPERATION SAFE STOP* to call attention to this significant traffic safety problem. Despite these efforts, the problem continues and is worsening with the increasing emergence of 'right side passes' where motorists pass the school bus between the loading door and the side of the road. We are pleased to support legislation that will help to reduce the incidence of illegal passing through enhanced enforcement.

This legislation will afford us strong new tools to help in the fight against illegal passing. Specifically, **S.3509A/A.1520A**:

- Authorizes installation of "School Bus Safety Cameras" or video recording devices on school buses, specifically on or near the Stop Arm, and authorizes such cameras to be eligible for Transportation Aid;
- Authorizes the use of images collected by those devices in the issuance of summons to motorists who illegally pass stopped school buses;
- Allows for school districts and school bus contractors to enter;
- Establishes a flat \$250 fine for convictions based on images captured by a school bus safety camera camera-based, while retaining the current fines and penalties for those violations witnessed by a police officer;
- Provides for reporting requirements to determine the efficacy of the cameras;
- Provides for the expiration or sunset of the program in September 2021;
- Authorizes school boards to resolve to install cameras on school buses operated within the district;
- Authorizes school districts and related school bus contractors to enter into agreements with law enforcement agencies relating to execution of the camera program, and to enter into third-party contracts for installation, processing, and administrative functions related to the enforcement process.

Other states have enacted similar legislation and have had success in implementing their programs and affecting the incidence of illegal passing. IT IS TIME for New York State to take its place among the states that have taken this important step in protecting our children!

The Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** S.3509A-Young/A.1520A-Magnarelli and urges its passage by the New York State Legislature and its enactment into law.



**Richard H. Schneider**

**Chair – Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board**