



NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SUPPORTS

S. 5897-A/Ritchie – A. 8623-B/Fahy

A bill to double fines of illegal passers who drive large commercial vehicles

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation **SUPPORTS S. 5974-B by Senator Ritchie and A.8623-A by Assembly Member Fahy** that would impose steeper fines on motorists who pass stopped school buses while driving large commercial vehicles..

The problem of illegal passing of school buses is one of the most intractable traffic safety problems we face in our state of New York. Recent surveys conducted by NYAPT reveal that more than 40,000 motorists pass stopped school buses illegally every day. More must be done to educate the public about the dangers of illegal passing and to enforce the law through greater ticketing and penalties.

It is important to note that among the most infamous incidents of illegal passing in recent years have been those involving tractor-trailers and logging trucks in New York as well as in other states nationally.

This legislation would penalize commercial drivers and drivers of vehicles larger than 26,000 pounds at a higher rate than other motorists. This recognizes that those drivers are trained and licensed at a higher level than other classes of motorists and should be held to a higher standard of behavior.

We support this legislation because it would underscore the importance of larger and potentially more dangerous vehicles to stop for stopped school buses.

NYAPT SUPPORTS S.5897-B / A . 8 6 2 3 - A and urges its passage by the New York State Legislature and its enactment into law.

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation is a professional organization comprised of over 600 members, representing school transportation officials in school districts, BOCES, private school bus operators, and public educational institutions across New York State. NYAPT is committed first and always to the safety of the 2.3 million school children we transport to and from school each and every day. We are committed to actively support legislation, regulations and policies that are in the interests of those school children and call upon our State leaders to keep those children in mind during legislative actions.

For additional information, please contact our NYAPT Executive Director, Peter Mannella, at 518-463-4937.