

Senate Transportation Committee

Vivian Hall 271-3091

HB 1537-LOCAL, relative to the use of high resolution cameras to identify school bus stop light violators.

Hearing Date: April 7, 2026

Time Opened: 1:02 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:10 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ricciardi, McConkey, Ward, Prentiss and Fenton

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill allows video recording devices to be affixed to school bus stop bars.

Sponsors:

Rep. Ulery

Rep. Lynn

Rep. Layon

Rep. Giasson

Rep. Spillane

Rep. Notter

Rep. Granger

Rep. Kesselring

Sen. Avard

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Lang

Who supports the bill: Rep. Giasson, Hillsborough 24, and Robert Everett, Teamsters.

Who opposes the bill: Julie Smith, Cory Stone, Pamela Harders, and James Gardner.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Henry Giasson, Hillsborough, District 24

- Rep. Giasson introduced the bill.
- School bus camera can be used with warrant for investigation.
- Without an enhanced camera, it is impossible to identify offending driver.
- The video camera will help provide supplemental information if a driver disputes the charge, and they violated a bus stop light.

Rob Everett, Teamsters

- Mr. Everett said that driving has gotten worse since the pandemic.
- He stated that while he is in the area, multiple vehicles often pass by him at high speed, raising safety concerns. He added that high school students have nearly been struck by passing cars.
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration did a study a couple of years ago. During their study, the top answer was 30.5 percent didn't care what the laws were. Getting their info is hard. 22.5 percent were in a hurry. Distracted/impaired driving also contributes to this.
- One individual that did stop and was ignorant of the law was informed and then took off.

Sen. Ward asked about the camera that could capture the license plate.

Mr. Everett said that the camera records everything and a 3rd party company wont help. He said theirs are hard because it is recording all the time.

Senator Ricciardi asked where the camera was located.

Mr. Everett clarified that it is at the rear of the bus facing forward. He said the driver could catch them at the stop arm.

V.H

Date Hearing Report completed: April 10, 2026