

CHAPTER 163
HB 1308-FN - FINAL VERSION

5Mar2026... 0523h
04/23/2026 1513s

2026 SESSION

26-2882
06/09

HOUSE BILL

1308-FN

AN ACT relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus.

SPONSORS: Rep. Giasson, Hills. 29; Rep. Layon, Rock. 13; Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 32; Rep. Markell, Rock. 18; Rep. Mazur, Hills. 44; Rep. Miller, Straf. 21; Rep. Reinfurt, Hills. 29; Rep. Sabourin dit Choiniere, Rock. 30

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill increases penalties for unlawfully passing a stopped school bus, authorizes bus camera footage as identification evidence, and mandates license suspension for first and repeat offenses.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 163:1 Overtaking and Passing School Bus. Amend RSA 265:54, I-a and I-b to read as follows:

2 I-a. Testimony under oath from the school bus driver or other witness that a vehicle failed to stop
3 and remain stopped as required by paragraph I shall be sufficient evidence to prove that the owner of the
4 vehicle was driving and has violated the provisions of paragraph I, unless such evidence is rebutted or
5 contradicted. ***The camera footage from the bus may be used as evidence to identify the vehicle owner or
6 operator and shall be made available by subpoena. The owner of a vehicle cited for a school bus law
7 violation shall also have access to the recording or to a copy of the recording, if requested.***

8 I-b. Except as provided in paragraph IV, a person who violates the provisions of paragraph I shall
9 be guilty of a [~~violation~~] ***class B misdemeanor*** and shall be fined [~~[\$150]~~] ***\$300*** plus penalty assessment for
10 a first offense[~~, and shall be fined not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000 for a subsequent offense. In~~
11 addition, the director may suspend the person's license to drive or nonresident driving privilege for a
12 period of 30 days for a second or subsequent offense]. ***In addition, the director shall suspend the
13 person's license to drive or nonresident driving privilege for a period of 7 days for the first offense.***

14 I-c. ***Except as provided in paragraph IV, a person who violates the provisions of paragraph I, a
15 second or subsequent time shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$750.
16 Unless the court determines that exceptional circumstances exist, the person's driver's license or privilege
17 to drive shall be revoked for a period of not less than 30 days.***

18 I-d. ***Except as provided in paragraph IV, a person who violates the provisions of paragraph I, a
19 third or subsequent time shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$750.
20 The person shall be sentenced to a mandatory sentence of not less than 15 consecutive days in the
21 county correctional facility. The person's driver's license or privilege to drive shall be revoked indefinitely
22 and shall not be restored for at least one year. At the end of the minimum revocation period, the person
23 may petition the court for eligibility to reapply for a driver's license only after completing a driver safety
24 course.***

25 163:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

Approved: June 19, 2026
Effective Date: January 01, 2027

