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Legislative Spotlight: Boscola School Bus Camera Legislation Aims to Address Problems Surrounding Current Law

By Senator Lisa Boscola

School buses are considered the safest form of ground transportation because of their size and construction. They are driven by professional drivers who have a genuine concern for the well-being and safety of the children. As it stands, Pennsylvania's school bus stop-arm camera law — enacted to protect children from reckless drivers — is unfairly penalizing thousands of motorists.

Earlier this legislative session, I introduced legislation to reform Pennsylvania's automated school bus stop-arm camera enforcement program based on local news reports detailing problems. While the program's purpose, protecting children near school buses, is critical, its implementation has raised serious concerns, particularly in the Lehigh Valley. A recent report found more than 1,000 appeals pending across area school districts, with some drivers waiting months without a hearing. One local Lehigh Valley resident, cited during a snowstorm, filed an appeal in December 2024 and still had no response by late spring 2025.

Senate Bill 1046 establishes a clear and fair tiered civil penalty structure: \$100 for a first offense, \$200 for a second, and \$300 for a third or subsequent violation within a 12-month period. To ensure dangerous behavior is still treated seriously, the bill allows law enforcement to issue a \$300 fine for egregious first-time violations, such as passing a stopped school bus at high speed or while children are visibly in the roadway.

The legislation also establishes an appeal timeline, to ensure cases are heard in a timely manner. This comes from numerous public complaints regarding appeals going unanswered for months on end. If appeals go unheard beyond the established timeline, the violation is deemed withdrawn, and no fine may be imposed.

These changes will improve transparency, ensure timely hearings, and make the enforcement process more reasonable for drivers, while preserving the program's essential goal of protecting students.



Town Hall Exposes Growing Backlash To Pennsylvania School Bus Camera Law

By LehighValleyNews.com | By Stephanie Sigafoos

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — A man who identified himself as a Pennsylvania state trooper delivered one of the sharpest critiques of the state's automated school bus camera law Tuesday night during a telephone town hall. The man told state Sen. Jarrett Coleman, R-Bucks/Lehigh, who held the town hall, that many citations issued under the program should not stand. The town hall discussion focused on complaints about Pennsylvania's automated enforcement program, which lets third-party vendors issue \$300 civil penalties to drivers who pass stopped school buses with red lights and stop arms deployed.

The trooper, who identified himself as Jordan from Bucks County, said he personally experienced what he believes is a core failure of the system: school bus stop arms deploying with little warning, leaving drivers no reasonable opportunity to stop.



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