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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

May 2, 2002

ORIGINAL: 2258

Representative Rick Geist  
Room 144, Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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THE RURAL CAUCUS

MAY 02 2002

Dear Rick:

I am writing to you to suggest comments to proposed rulemaking #18-372 of the PA Department of Transportation (67 PA Code, Chapter 171, Subsection B), dealing with school bus chassis standards. I am sending these comments to you for inclusion in the comments of the House Transportation Committee pursuant to Section 5(d) of Act 181 of 1982, known as the Regulatory Review Act.

In particular, I would like to suggest a change relating to an incident earlier this year when students were abducted in a school bus, but later released. Much of the concern surrounded the need to identify quickly the affected school bus. Further, the same necessity for identification could apply to a bus, which had suffered an accident, been stolen or hijacked, or lost in inclement weather.

In section 171.47(2)(Color), I would insert after the new sentence: "In addition to the identification standards in 171.55(b), every vehicle shall bear the identification number on the bus prominently on the roof in black. Each number or letter in the identification number shall be no less than thirty-six inches high, 24 inches wide, and six inches thick." All symbols shall be centered and left-side oriented (i.e. to be read from outside the left side of the vehicle)."

~~I believe this language may help in identifying errant school buses, but we can probably never prevent a recurrence due to the human factor.~~

Please accept my thanks for your consideration of these comments. If I can assist you with this request, please contact my office (783-9311).

Sincerely,

  
Representative Jess M. Stairs  
Chairman, House Education Committee

JMS/er

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