

Allow School Bus Stop Arm Cameras in OR

*From the Office of Senator Dembrow
SD 23

Student Safety Matters

When cars illegally pass a school bus it poses a significant safety threat to children and others on the road. By law motorists must stop while the stop-arm is extended and the red lights of a school bus are flashing. Yet, when a driver disregards the school bus signals, it can be difficult to hold the driver accountable.

Stop arm cameras record information needed for law enforcement to follow up on the violation. **At least 24 states have passed legislation allowing school districts to install school bus stop-arm cameras**, thereby ensuring that more drivers who are jeopardizing student safety can be held accountable.²

School Districts in Oregon are not permitted to have stop arm cameras and must remove them from buses purchased from out of state. Legislation is needed to allow districts to have stop arm cameras if they choose.

KEY COMPONENTS of the bill

- Allows school districts to contract with vendors for installation, operation, and maintenance of school bus stop arm cameras.
- Ensures signage on buses when stop arm cameras are in use.
- Allows those cameras to record people who fail to stop for bus safety lights and have that data transferred to law enforcement.
- Provides for school districts to enter into agreements with local law enforcement agencies to participate in Stop Arm Camera program

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) 2023 Stop Arm survey declared that **"94,581 school bus drivers reported that 62,482 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day** during the 2022-2023 school year. Adjusting for 100% of the school bus drivers in the U.S., we would have seen just over 242,000 illegal passings. Projected across a 180-day school year, these sample results point to more than 43.5 million violations per year among America's motoring public."¹

Oregon Bus Drivers reported 1,427 violations in ONE DAY (2023)¹



Please contact my office with any questions: Rep.CourtneyNeron@oregonlegislature.gov | 503-986-1426

¹ <https://nasdpts.org/resources/Docs/2023IllegalPassingSurvey-PressRelease.pdf>

² <https://www.ncsl.org/transportation/state-school-bus-stop-arm-camera-laws>