House Bill 459 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)
By: Representatives Ehrhart of the 36th, Carson of the 46th, Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 43rd, and Gaines of the 117th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 5 of Article 22 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to school buses, so as to provide for a driver's license verification system for school bus drivers; to require participation by local boards of education; to provide for data submission; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for coordination among the Department of Public Safety, the Georgia Technology Authority, and the Department of Driver Services; to amend Code Section 50-18-72 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to when public disclosure not required, so as to provide that records maintained for such verification system shall not be subject to public disclosure; to amend Article 23 of Chapter 2 of Title 20, Chapter 1 of Title 35, and Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to traffic safety, general provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, and general provisions regarding the uniform rules of the road, respectively, so as to authorize certain personnel employed by or volunteering for law enforcement agencies or fire departments to assist in directing and regulating the flow of traffic and to clarify provisions relating thereto; to provide for training requirements; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

PART I

SECTION 1-1.

Part 5 of Article 22 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to school buses, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-1127, which is reserved, as follows:

"20-2-112. 
(a) Each local board of education employing or using persons as school bus drivers shall submit to the Department of Public Safety the full name and driver's license number of every person who is to be employed or used as a school bus driver prior to authorizing such
person to operate a school bus. Such local board of education shall provide an updated list
to the Department of Public Safety twice within a calendar year as provided for in rules and
regulations promulgated by the commissioner of public safety.
(b) The Department of Public Safety shall operate and maintain a data base of the names
and license information of the persons provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section
and, in coordination with the Georgia Technology Authority and the Department of Driver
Services for immediate electronic furnishing of information, shall confirm or verify the
status of each such person's driver's license and provide notification to the appropriate local
board of education if such person's driver's license or driving privileges have expired or
been canceled, suspended, or revoked.
(c)(1) Upon notice that a person's driver's license or driving privileges have expired or
been canceled, suspended, or revoked, the local board of education shall suspend or
revoke the authorization it has given to such person to drive a school bus and inform such
person of, and reason for, the suspension or revocation.
(2) Any person authorized to drive a school bus by a local board of education shall notify
the local board of education if such person's driver's license or driving privileges have
expired or been canceled, suspended, or revoked.
(3) A person's whose authorization to drive a school bus has been suspended or revoked
by a local board of education pursuant to this Code section may request a new
authorization to drive a school bus upon the reinstatement of his or her driver's license
or driving privileges. Reserved.

SECTION 1-2.
Code Section 50-18-72 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to when public
disclosure not required, is amended by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:
"(25.2) Records of a person's name and driver's license information collected and
maintained for purposes of Code Section 20-2-1127."

PART II
SECTION 2-1.

Article 23 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
traffic safety, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-1131, relating to direction of traffic
by school-crossing guards, as follows:
"20-2-1131.
Any person who is a school-crossing guard designated by a local law enforcement agency
as set forth in Code Section 35-1-11 shall be authorized to direct and regulate the flow of
traffic at school crossings or within a reduced speed school zone during the time when such
school crossing guard he or she is on duty."

**SECTION 2-2.**

Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, is amended by revising Code Section
35-1-11, relating to police volunteers for traffic control, as follows:

"35-1-11.

A police chief An elected sheriff or police chief of a local law enforcement agency or fire
chief of a local fire department, with the approval of the local governing authority, shall
be authorized to designate, and equip police, and train nonsworn law enforcement
employees and firefighters and volunteers and to provide training to such police volunteers
in the area and manner of to assist in traffic control, provided that such individuals have
successfully completed at least one hour of a traffic control training program approved by
the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council. With the approval of the
sheriff or police chief of a local law enforcement agency or fire chief of a local fire
department, a police volunteer such individuals shall be authorized to direct and regulate
the flow of traffic, in the event of a fire, explosion, hurricane, tornado, or other emergency
situation. A police volunteer Any such individual who is not certified pursuant to the
requirements of Chapter 8 of this title shall not have the power of arrest provided to peace
officers."

**SECTION 2-3.**

Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
general provisions regarding the uniform rules of the road, is amended by revising Code
Section 40-6-2, relating to obedience to authorized persons directing traffic, as follows:

"40-6-2.

No person shall fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police
officer, law enforcement officer or firefighter, police nonsworn employee or volunteer
authorized under Code Section 35-1-11, or school crossing guard individual designated by
a local law enforcement agency invested by law under Code Section 20-2-1131 with the
authority to direct, control, or regulate traffic."

**PART III**

**SECTION 3-1.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.