

ACT 118

H.B. NO. 1637

A Bill for an Act Relating to School Buses.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 286-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

“(b) The department of transportation [may] shall grant exemptions for the use of vehicles other than school vehicles when the department finds that compliance with this section is:

(1) [Impossible] Impractical due to the unavailability of school vehicles; or

- (2) Impractical due to economic factors.

No exemption shall be granted for the qualifications of individuals driving a bus as defined in section 286-2 and such individuals shall meet school vehicle driver qualifications.”

2. By amending subsection (i) to read:

“(i) As used in subsection (b), a school vehicle is unavailable [only] when it:

- (1) Is being used during a specific time for contracted school-related transportation to and from school or related destinations;
- (2) Fails that day’s inspection and has not been repaired;
- (3) Is already in transportation service; [or]
- (4) Is committed for transportation service[.]; or
- (5) Does not meet the requests of a school for a motorcoach with undercarriage storage compartments and public address system; provided that the use of the motorcoach shall be used solely for the transportation of middle, intermediate, or high school student groups to and from school-related events or activities. As used in this paragraph, “motorcoach” means a vehicle that carries more than 25 passengers, has a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 26,000 pounds, and is no more than 15 years old.”

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 25, 1999.)