

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 753

Short Title: School Bus/Activity Bus Operation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Carney.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Judiciary III.

March 25, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CLARIFY RESTRICTIONS ON OPERATING A SCHOOL BUS OR  
ACTIVITY BUS WHILE OCCUPIED BY A CHILD OR CHILDREN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-218 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-218. **Standard qualifications for school bus drivers; speed limit for school buses and school activity buses.**

(a) **Qualifications.** – No person shall drive a school bus over the highways or public vehicular areas of North Carolina while it is occupied by ~~children~~ one or more child passengers unless the person furnishes to the superintendent of the schools of the county in which the bus shall be operated a certificate from any representative duly designated by the Commissioner and from the Director of Transportation or a designee of the Director in charge of school buses in the county showing that the person has been examined by them and is fit and competent to drive a school bus over the highways and public vehicular areas of the State. The driver of a school bus must be at least 18 years of age and hold a Class A, B, or C commercial drivers license and a school bus driver's certificate. The driver of a school activity bus must meet the same qualifications as a school bus driver or must have a license appropriate for the class of vehicle being driven.

(b) **Speed Limits.** – It is unlawful to drive a school bus ~~loaded with~~ occupied by children over the highways or public vehicular areas of the State at a greater rate of speed than 45 miles per hour. It is unlawful to drive a school activity bus loaded with children over the highways or public vehicular areas of North Carolina at a greater rate of speed than 55 miles per hour.

(c) **Punishment.** – A person who violates this section commits a Class 3 misdemeanor."

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2009, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

