

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 334

Session of 1985

INTRODUCED BY J. L. WRIGHT, AFFLERBACH, KASUNIC, LASHINGER, E. Z. TAYLOR, HERMAN, BOOK, PERZEL, GEIST, ARTY, PETRARCA, MICOZZIE, DAWIDA, CIMINI, GREENWOOD, BOWSER, JOHNSON, TRELLO, SIRIANNI, COHEN, GRUPPO AND COLAFELLA, FEBRUARY 12, 1985

SENATOR CORMAN, TRANSPORTATION, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, JUNE 24, 1985

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated~~ <—  
2 ~~Statutes, requiring school buses to stop at all railroad~~  
3 ~~crossings.~~

4 CONCERNING TOLLS ON CERTAIN BRIDGES OPERATED BY THE DELAWARE <—  
5 RIVER JOINT TOLL BRIDGE COMMISSION.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 ~~Section 1. Section 3342 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania~~ <—  
9 ~~Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:~~

10 ~~§ 3342. Vehicles required to stop at railroad crossings.~~

11 ~~(a) General rule. Except as provided in subsection [(b)]~~  
12 ~~(c), the driver of any vehicle described in regulations issued~~  
13 ~~pursuant to subsection [(c)] (d), before crossing at grade any~~  
14 ~~track or tracks of a railroad, shall stop the vehicle within 50~~  
15 ~~feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the~~  
16 ~~railroad and while so stopped shall listen and look in both~~  
17 ~~directions along the track for any approaching train, and for~~

1 ~~signals indicating the approach of a train, and shall not~~  
2 ~~proceed until it can be done safely. After stopping and upon~~  
3 ~~proceeding when it is safe to do so the driver of the vehicle~~  
4 ~~shall cross only in such gear of the vehicle that there will be~~  
5 ~~no necessity for manually changing gears while traversing the~~  
6 ~~crossing and the driver shall not manually shift gears while~~  
7 ~~crossing the track or tracks.~~

8 ~~(b) School buses. Notwithstanding subsection (c), the~~  
9 ~~drivers of school buses shall stop before crossing any railroad~~  
10 ~~grade crossing or track or tracks of a railroad.~~

11 ~~[(b)] (c) Exceptions. [This section] Subsection (a) does~~  
12 ~~not apply at any of the following:~~

13 ~~(1) Any railroad grade crossing at which traffic is~~  
14 ~~controlled by a police officer or flagman.~~

15 ~~(2) Any railroad grade crossing at which traffic is~~  
16 ~~regulated by a traffic control signal.~~

17 ~~(3) Any railroad grade crossing protected by crossing~~  
18 ~~gates or an alternately flashing light signal intended to~~  
19 ~~give warning of the approach of a railroad train.~~

20 ~~(4) Any railroad grade crossing at which an official~~  
21 ~~traffic control device gives notice that the stopping~~  
22 ~~requirement imposed by this section does not apply.~~

23 ~~[(c)] (d) Regulations defining vehicles subject to~~  
24 ~~section. The department shall adopt such regulations as may be~~  
25 ~~necessary describing the vehicles which must comply with the~~  
26 ~~stopping requirements of this section. In formulating the~~  
27 ~~regulations, the department shall give consideration to the~~  
28 ~~hazardous nature of any substance carried by the vehicle as~~  
29 ~~determined by the Hazardous Substances Transportation Board and~~  
30 ~~to the number of passengers carried by the vehicle in~~

1 ~~determining whether the vehicle shall be required to stop. These~~  
2 ~~regulations shall be developed in conjunction with the~~  
3 ~~Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Urban Mass~~  
4 ~~Transportation Authority and shall correlate with and so far as~~  
5 ~~possible conform to the current regulations of the United States~~  
6 ~~Department of Transportation.~~

7 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

8 SECTION 1. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW TO THE CONTRARY, <—  
9 WITH REGARD TO ANY EXISTING BRIDGE WITHIN THE DELAWARE RIVER  
10 JOINT TOLL BRIDGE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION AND CONTROL ON WHICH  
11 TOLLS WERE NOT CHARGED OR COLLECTED IN 1984 AND WHICH WAS  
12 FINANCED IN PART WITH FEDERAL FUNDS, THE COMMISSION MAY, IN THE  
13 SAME MANNER AND TO THE SAME EXTENT THAT IT CAN DO SO FOR ALL  
14 TOLL BRIDGES UNDER ITS JURISDICTION AND CONTROL, FIX, CHARGE AND  
15 COLLECT FEES, RENTALS, TOLLS OR ANY OTHER CHARGES ON SUCH  
16 EXISTING BRIDGE ONLY IF AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY SUBSTANTIALLY  
17 SIMILAR LAWS ENACTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE  
18 STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

19 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON THE ENACTMENT  
20 INTO LAW BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY OF LEGISLATION HAVING AN  
21 IDENTICAL EFFECT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, BUT, IF THE  
22 STATE OF NEW JERSEY SHALL HAVE ALREADY ENACTED SUCH LEGISLATION,  
23 THEN THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.