

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6449**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 167

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 17, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Crossing Arms on School Buses.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Landske

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Crossing Arms on School Buses:* The bill provides that: (1) certain school buses must be equipped with a school bus crossing arm at the front of the bus; and (2) if on July 1, 2008, an individual or a school corporation owns or has contracted for the use of a school bus required to be equipped with a school bus crossing arm, the individual or school corporation may continue to use the school bus until July 1, 2013.

*Penalty Provision:* The bill provides that a person who operates a school bus not equipped with a required school bus crossing arm commits a Class C infraction.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Crossing Arms on School Buses:* The state School Bus Committee would be required to adopt new rules for the usage of crossing arms on school buses. The Committee is scheduled to meet 14 times this year and would likely be able to consider any rules within their normal course of business.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Penalty Provision:* Under the bill, a person that transports children in a school bus not equipped with a school bus crossing arm would commit a Class C infraction. However, the bill would allow buses without arms to be used until July 1, 2013. Therefore, infractions would not begin to be enforced until after June 30, 2013. The maximum judgment for a Class C infraction is \$500, which would be deposited in the state General Fund. However, any additional revenue is likely to be small.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Crossing Arms on School Buses:* It is nearly standard for newly

manufactured school buses to have crossing arms. Depending on a school corporation's bus replacement schedule, schools may have to retrofit existing buses without arms in order to comply with the requirements of the bill. There are recessed cab buses without crossing arms scattered throughout various school corporations. However, school corporations would have five years from the effective date to comply.

The cost to retrofit an existing bus with a crossing arm could range from \$250 to \$400 per arm. The estimate range depends on the arm (whether steel or plastic), mechanical components of the arm, and the size/type of bus to be retrofitted.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions are filed and a judgment is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any additional revenue is likely to be small.

**State Agencies Affected:** State School Bus Committee.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools, trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education; Cardinal Bus Sales, 317-462-7500; Dennis Costerison, Indiana Association of School Business Officials, 317-639-3586.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.