

209A. 1. Definition: The term "school bus" as used in this Act shall be defined as a motor vehicle having a seating capacity of ten or more persons and transporting children to and from the elementary and/or high schools in the State and not operating under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission and/or not operated by a public service corporation furnishing mass transportation in a town of a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants.

2. Every vehicle when used as a school bus shall have both on the front and on the rear a sign plainly visible containing the words "school bus" in letters not less than four inches in height, with each stroke of not less than half an inch in width; such school bus shall also be equipped with stop signals visible both to the front and to the rear, and the body of such school bus shall be painted orange and black; with the orange color predominating. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is empowered to adopt rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Article, relative to such school bus signs and stop signals.

3. The driver of a vehicle upon a highway outside the corporate limits of incorporated cities and towns of more than five thousand population, upon meeting or overtaking any school bus which has stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child or children, shall come to a full stop at least ten (10) feet from such school bus, either in front or rear thereof as the case may be, and such vehicle shall remain standing until the children are received or discharged and the school bus has again started. The foregoing shall be applicable only in the event the school bus shall be equipped with the school bus signs and stop signals and painted in the color scheme as prescribed in this Act, and shall not apply to vehicles approaching such school bus from the front on dual highways.

4. No school bus operating in the State while it is carrying any passengers to or from school shall be operated at a rate of speed greater than 35 miles per hour.

5. Every school bus operating within the State shall be equipped with a fire extinguisher which bears the label of approval of the Fire Underwriters' Association and which shall be kept properly filled and in satisfactory operating condition at all times. This extinguisher shall be placed in the school bus in a location readily accessible to the driver.

6. Every school bus operating in this State shall have a door in or near the rear of the bus readily accessible for the dis-