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S.F. No. 584 – School Bus Stop Arm Penalties (as amended by the A-2 amendment)

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S.F. 584, as amended by the A-2 amendment, amends the law relating to failing to stop for a school bus that has its stop-arm activated. The bill provides for a new distribution method for the fines collected. The fine for vehicle owners is increased. The data collected on stop-arm cameras is generally classified as private data. School bus drivers and their supervisors must report violations of the law. The bill is effective July 1, 2021.

Section 1. Violations by drivers; penalties. Fines collected from a driver for failing to stop for a school bus with its stop-arm activated are distributed as provided in **section 3** of the bill.

Section 2. Violation; penalty for owner or lessee. The owner of a motor vehicle that is used to violate the school bus stop-arm law is subject to a fine of no less than \$300, plus the \$75 surcharge. Under current law, the fine is \$100, plus the \$75 surcharge. Fines collected from an owner are distributed as provided in **section 3** of the bill. The owner cannot be cited if another person is convicted of the violation or the vehicle is stolen.

Section 3. Fine revenue distribution. Fines collected for violations of the school bus stop arm law are distributed: 1) \$50 to the law enforcement agency that issued the citation; and 2) the remainder goes to the school district where the violation occurred to be used to purchase, install, or maintain stop-arm cameras. Under current law, the fine revenue is distributed based on a formula that takes into account several factors, including where the violation occurred and which entity issued the citation.

Section 4. Data privacy. Data collected on a school bus stop-arm camera are private data on individuals, with a few specified exceptions. The owner or operator of the camera is subject to the Data Practices Act and this section.

Section 5. Reporting. A school bus driver must report a violation of the stop-arm laws to a supervisor and the supervisor must report the violation to a law enforcement agency.