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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 1390**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING LIVE DIGITAL VIDEO SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION DETECTION MONITORING SYSTEMS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

PA 24-107 allowed municipalities to adopt ordinances authorizing the use of a video monitoring system and \$250 fines to enforce the law that generally prohibits drivers from passing a school bus with its red signal lights flashing (the “stop arm law”). In doing so, the act replaced a current statutory authorization for municipalities and school boards to use a similar monitoring system to enforce this law. This bill extends by two years the end (sunset) dates for municipalities and school boards to use a monitoring system under the current statutory authorization.

Under the bill, municipalities and boards generally have up to two more years to stop using these systems under the current authorization (generally by July 1, 2028). Under current law, they generally must stop doing so by July 1, 2026. Similarly, for municipalities or boards that are not operating a system under the current authorization, the bill allows them to begin doing so before July 1, 2026. Under current law, this authorization ended two years earlier.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **NEW USERS OF LIVE MONITORING SYSTEMS UNDER CURRENT STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION**

Under the bill, municipalities and boards of education that are not operating a live monitoring system under the current authorization before July 1, 2026, are prohibited from (1) starting operation of one on or after that date, or (2) entering into an agreement with a private vendor for installing, operating, and maintaining such a system on or after that date. Under current law, they are prohibited from doing so as of July 1, 2024. (So in effect, the bill restarts this authorization until the new sunset

date.)

### **SUNSET FOR EXISTING MUNICIPAL USERS AND VENDORS**

The bill generally requires municipalities, boards of education, and private vendors operating live monitoring systems under the current authorization on July 1, 2026, to stop by July 1, 2028 (each date is two years later than what is in current law).

However, vendors may continue to operate their systems (under agreement with a municipality) on or after July 1, 2028, if (1) their operation agreements were entered into before July 1, 2026; (2) no agreement renewal or extension option is exercised on or after July 1, 2026, that would extend their operation on or after July 1, 2028; and (3) their operation stops once the agreement ends. Each of these dates is two years later than what is in current law.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### ***Stop Arm Law***

Connecticut's stop arm law generally requires drivers to (1) stop their vehicles at least 10 feet from the front or rear of a school bus that is displaying its flashing red signal lights and (2) remain there until the bus no longer displays the lights. Any person who violates this law faces (1) a \$450 fine for the first offense or (2) a fine of \$500 to \$1,000, up to 30 days in prison, or both for a subsequent offense (CGS § 14-279).

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    29    Nay    0    (03/18/2025)