

92GMSSB2164

State of Illinois
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

August 23, 2002

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois Senate
92nd General Assembly

Today I sign Senate Bill 2164, which amends the Vehicle Code and requires that a person driving a bus that has been chartered for the sole purpose of transporting students in grades 12 and below to school sponsored activities, must have a school bus permit in addition to any other permit or licensed required to operate that bus. Senate Bill 2164 further provides that this requirement does not apply to drivers employed by public transportation providers that are authorized to conduct specific school routes, but are also on a regularly scheduled route for the transport of other farepaying passengers.

Senate Bill 2164 is designed to ensure that chartered bus company drivers who transport students for school related activities have the proper credentials to safely operate vehicle and transport students. I support the spirit of this legislation, and I believe it is essential to send a strong message to schools and the transportation industry that our children's safety is of utmost importance. Illinois' school children have been the number one priority during my Administration and throughout my career in public service.

However, since the unanimous passage of Senate Bill 2164, chartered motor coach industry representatives and several members of the Illinois Senate have expressed concerns regarding the implementation of this legislation. Specifically, the industry reports that some of the skills and knowledge tested for school bus permits are not applicable to chartered motor coach drivers. Therefore, I encourage the General Assembly to address the concerns of its members and the charter bus industry representatives, while continuing their efforts to ensure the safety of our school children.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR