



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **LD 312 - An Act Regarding the Rates of Speed at Which School Buses Travel**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. I am present today to introduce LD 312 - An Act Regarding the Rates of Speed at Which School Buses Travel.

My name is Gregory Swallow. I proudly represent House District 7 which includes Houlton, Linneus, Ludlow, New Limerick and Oakfield.

The purpose of LD 312 is to make changes under Title 29-A (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, Section 2074, Paragraphs D and E. This change would allow school buses to travel at the posted speed limit when transporting pupils. Currently, school buses are limited to 45 miles per hour when transporting pupils to and from school.

The contention by the school bus drivers and supervisors is that by limiting the speed limit to 45 miles per hour, the probability of an accident is enhanced rather than limited. This danger is further amplified in winter months when buses are "holding back" logging trucks etc. under more treacherous driving conditions. The truck drivers are pushing to pass the bus and taking chances that they may not otherwise choose if the bus were travelling at the posted speed limit. Obviously, if the road conditions were so severe that they warranted lower speeds for all parties the bus drivers would use their discretion.

Therefore, the contention for this bill is that though current law is well intended it falls short of its goal. There are those following me that can offer experiences that will give this issue a more personal perspective in sharing their real life driving experiences.