



## Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation

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The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) respectfully offers the following resolution in opposition to Senate Bill No. 899 to place decals on the rear of school buses noting that they stop at railroad crossings.

**WHEREAS:** The pupil transportation department of the local school divisions throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia are dedicated to providing the safest and most efficient transportation for all students; and

**WHEREAS:** The Virginia CDL driver's manual specifies that as a school bus driver approaches a railroad crossing, they must tap the brakes lightly to warn other drivers that the bus is about to stop; and

**WHEREAS:** The Virginia CDL driver's manual specifies that a bus driver approaching a railroad crossing must turn on their four way flashers; and

**WHEREAS:** The Virginia CDL driver's manual specifies that school buses must come to a complete stop no less than 15 feet and no more than 50 feet from the nearest rail; and

**WHEREAS:** The Virginia CDL driver's manual specifies that school bus drivers, while stopped at a rail road crossing, must open the entrance door and drivers window, to look and listen carefully in both directions; and

**WHEREAS:** The Virginia CDL driver's manual specifies that when it is safe to do so, the bus driver must close the door and turn off their four-way hazard lights; and

**WHEREAS:** The Virginia CDL driver's manual specifies that the school bus driver cross the railroad tracks in a gear which allows the bus to cross the rails completely without having to change gears; and

**WHEREAS:** Additional signage borders on advertising and distraction to vehicles approaching a bus from the rear; and

**WHEREAS:** This is one more unfunded mandate; and

**WHEREAS:** We are already required by the Code of Virginia to provide a warning to other drivers with the use of four-way hazard lights; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation does hereby oppose Senate Bill No. 899, a bill to amend and reenact 22.1-177 of the Code of Virginia, relating to bumper stickers on school buses.

Given under my hand this seventeenth day of January in the year two thousand and thirteen.

Michael Ashby  
Chairman, VAPT Resolutions Committee