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ADDITIONAL  
STATISTICS

- 17 million motorists commit stop-arm violations each school year, according to the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation (NASDPTS)
- 95,494 illegal passes were recorded from a 2019 survey of 39 states conducted by NASDPTS
- 60% of motorists passed from the front of the bus and 97% passed on the left side of the bus (stop-arm side) according to the NASDPTS survey.

# NEWS RELEASE

OCTOBER 25, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Take 1 for Zero

The Missouri School Boards' Association's Center for Education Safety is teaming up with the Missouri Safety Center and several other collaborating agencies for the "Take 1 for Zero" project, funded through the Missouri Department of Transportation Highway Safety and Traffic Division. This project involves several partners including: the Missouri State Highway Patrol, University of Central Missouri-Missouri Safety Center, the Missouri Parent Teacher Association (Mo PTA), Missouri Association of Student Councils (MASC), Missouri Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT), nationally recognized traffic safety specialist Cara Filler, and other traffic safety partners throughout the state.

The goal of the project is to make "1" major impact on roadway safety by focusing on school bus stop arm violations throughout Missouri. The act of illegally passing a stopped school bus with red lights flashing is commonly known as a "stop-arm violation". This is a major problem across the country.

In Missouri, 304.050 RSMo makes it illegal for motorists to pass a school bus that is stopped to load/unload students with its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended. However, some motorists simply choose to ignore the law. Missouri data is lacking, and this project hopes to improve the collection and reporting.

The collection of data can help move the project toward its goal of reducing crashes, fatalities, and injuries at school bus loading and unloading locations. This is essential for keeping our children safe throughout the school year and reducing the law violations in Missouri.

MSBA's Center for Education Safety will lead the effort to focus on an awareness campaign for students, parents, school staff and the public to increase overall attentiveness in school zones and school bus stops; improve reporting mechanisms for school bus drivers; and data-gathering methods for identification of the problem in Missouri through surveys, focus groups, and feedback from law enforcement, school districts, bus drivers, and other stakeholders.

The current project runs from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 but it is hoped that the progress for this initial project will lead to further funding in the future.