

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road · Annapolis · Maryland · 21401

BILL: HB23 VEHICLE LAWS - SCHOOL VEHICLES - DEFINITION

HEARING DATE: JANUARY 26, 2017

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

POSITION: OPPOSE

CONTACT PERSON: JEANETTE ORTIZ, ESQ., *LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COUNSEL* (410.703.5352)

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **OPPOSES House Bill 23 Vehicle Laws - School Vehicles – Definition**. This bill would alter the definition of 'school vehicle' to include specified vehicles that meet or comply with specified standards and requirements, were originally titled and used to transport children, students, and teachers in another state, comply with the regulations on transporting children enrolled in the federally funded Head Start Program, and are used only for transporting children to and from a Head Start program.

Current State law and the Code of Maryland Regulations require school systems transporting students to use buses that have been constructed to Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration specifications and additional specifications as set out by the local school system; such buses all have a Maryland identification plate affixed to the bus to evidence that they met those specifications. Buses built to Maryland specifications for purchase and use by Maryland companies readily meet these specifications. However, to open up the marketplace to buses from out of state, which would have to be retrofitted to meet Maryland specifications, would be costly and raise safety concerns. Maryland school vehicles must submit to four school bus inspections each year to ensure that all vehicles are maintained at the highest level. Many other states do not maintain such strict inspection standards. Absent a guarantee of such an inspection history, a purchase of a bus from another state is fraught with safety risks.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on **House Bill 23**.