

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road · Annapolis · Maryland · 21401

BILL: SB154 VEHICLE LAWS - SCHOOL BUS MONITORING CAMERAS - CIVIL PENALTY

HEARING DATE: MARCH 23, 2017

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

POSITION: SUPPORT

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

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 154 - Vehicle Laws - School Bus Monitoring Cameras - Civil Penalty**. This bill would set the civil penalty for a violation recorded by a school bus monitoring camera for failure to stop for a school vehicle operating alternately flashing red lights at \$250.

As stated in the fiscal note, a one-day survey of bus drivers conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education in April 2016, found 4,326 incidents involving vehicles passing a stopped school bus with its flashing red lights illuminated, a significant increase over the 2,795 incidents found in the previous year's survey. Anne Arundel County Public Schools supports **Senate Bill 154** because it promotes safety for our students while on school buses. We believe that increased penalties for failure to stop for a school vehicle operating alternately flashing red lights diminish such instances. The passage of **Senate Bill 154** is a step in the right direction to help ensure student safety.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **Senate Bill 154**.