

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TITLE: Vehicle Laws – School Vehicles - Definition

BILL NUMBER: HB 681

POSITION: OPPOSE

HEARING DATE: February 25, 2016

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

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The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **OPPOSES** House Bill 681. This Bill expands the definition of "school vehicle" to include a vehicle that was originally titled in another state and used to transport children/students/or teachers for educational purposes or in connection with a school activity in that state; meets the standards and requirements established by the administration for registration as a type II school vehicle, complies with Head Start Transportation standards and is used only for transporting children.

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 (MVA) 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 by and use for 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 not only be costly, but would 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 urges the House Environmental and Transportation Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** Report on House Bill 681.