

HOUSE BILL 283

R5
HB 87/21 – ENT

2lr1361
CF 2lr1362

By: ~~Delegate D. Jones~~ Delegates D. Jones, Barve, Boyce, Ciliberti, Foley, Fraser-Hidalgo, Healey, Jalisi, Lehman, Love, Prettyman, Ruth, Stein, Terrasa, Wells, and Wivell

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2022
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: February 15, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – School Bus Safety – Occupant Capacity**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a school bus be routed with the intent that the number
4 of pupils on the bus does not exceed the manufacturer's rated seating capacity for
5 the bus; requiring that, if an emergency or temporary situation causes the number
6 of pupils to exceed the rated seating capacity, the situation be corrected within a
7 reasonable period of time; and generally relating to school bus safety.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Transportation
10 Section 21–1118(a) and (b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 21–1118(c)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Transportation

21–1118.

(a) The driver of a school bus:

(1) Is responsible for its operation; and

(2) May not drive it into any roadway without first stopping and determining that there is no danger from any other vehicle.

(b) The person responsible for any pupils on a school bus is:

(1) The teacher on the bus; or

(2) If a teacher is not present, the driver.

(c) **(1) A SCHOOL BUS SHALL BE ROUTED WITH THE INTENT THAT THE NUMBER OF PUPILS ON THE BUS DOES NOT EXCEED THE MANUFACTURER’S RATED SEATING CAPACITY FOR THE BUS.**

(2) IF AN EMERGENCY OR OTHER TEMPORARY SITUATION CAUSES THE NUMBER OF PUPILS ON A SCHOOL BUS TO EXCEED THE SEATING CAPACITY OF THE BUS, THE SITUATION SHALL BE CORRECTED WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

(3) A person responsible for pupils on a school bus may not permit the number of standing pupils to exceed one pupil for each part of the aisle that is bounded on both sides by forward facing seats.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.