

HOUSE BILL 1481

R6, F5

0lr2556

By: **Delegates Fraser–Hidalgo, Charkoudian, and Moon**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 12, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Zero–Emission Electric School Vehicles – Inspections**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a zero–emission electric school vehicle may
4 be operated under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the length of
5 operation of zero–emission electric school vehicles.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Education
8 Section 7–804
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 7–804.

15 (a) In this section, “school vehicle” has the meaning stated in § 11–154 of the
16 Transportation Article.

17 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) [and (3)], **(3), AND (4)** of this
18 subsection, unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety
19 standards, a school vehicle may be operated for 12 years.

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.



(2) (i) In Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards, a school vehicle may be operated for 15 years.

(ii) A school vehicle operating under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall be maintained as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(3) Any school vehicle in operation or accepted before July 1, 2004, or under contract to be purchased before July 1, 2004, that meets the specifications of the Department and of the Motor Vehicle Administration for transit style school vehicles may be operated for 15 years.

(4) UNLESS IT FAILS TO MEET THE APPLICABLE SCHOOL BUS AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS, A ZERO-EMISSION ELECTRIC SCHOOL VEHICLE MAY BE OPERATED FOR 15 YEARS.

(c) Notwithstanding the 12-year limitation in subsection (b)(1) of this section, a school vehicle may be operated for additional years if:

(1) The school vehicle is maintained under a preventive maintenance plan approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that includes an inspection at the end of the 12th year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle Administration each year thereafter;

(2) Any structural repairs to the school vehicle necessitated by accident, metal fatigue, or any other cause are certified by an independent expert approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration to meet or exceed the manufacturer's original manufacturing standards;

(3) The school vehicle is equipped with:

(i) The body originally placed on the chassis by the manufacturer;

(ii) An 8 light warning system;

(iii) A left side stop arm;

(iv) A fire-retardant driver's seat;

(v) Fire-retardant barriers in the case of a school vehicle with a front engine; and

(vi) A fire-retardant rear seating area in the case of a school vehicle with a rear engine; and

1 (4) The State Superintendent grants approval.

2 (d) If a school vehicle passes an inspection that is required under subsection (c)(1)
3 of this section:

4 (1) The inspection shall be valid in the county in which the inspection was
5 completed; and

6 (2) If ownership of the school vehicle is transferred to a person who
7 operates the school vehicle in a county in which school vehicles are authorized under
8 subsection (b)(2) of this section to be operated for 15 years, the inspection shall be valid in
9 that county for the length of time that the inspection would have been valid in the county
10 where the inspection was completed.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
12 1, 2020.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.