

SENATE BILL 253

R5

(PRE-FILED)

1lr1359
CF HB 87

By: **Senator Elfreth**

Requested: October 30, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

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; providing for certain emergency or temporary situations; and generally
6 relating to school bus safety.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 21–1118(a) and (b)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 21–1118(c)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2020 Replacement Volume)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 21–1118.

21 (a) The driver of a school bus:

22 (1) Is responsible for its operation; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

4 (1) The teacher on the bus; or

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

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

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

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

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2021.