

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 492

(Delegate Chisholm, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Anne Arundel County - School Vehicles - Duration of Operation

This bill allows a school vehicle to be operated for 15 years, rather than 12 years, in Anne Arundel County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Anne Arundel County Public School System finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Unless it fails to meet applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards, a school vehicle may be operated for 12 years. In certain counties, a school vehicle may be operated for 15 years (unless it fails to meet applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards). Those counties include Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester. In those counties, a school vehicle must also meet specified maintenance standards.

A school vehicle may be operated for additional years if (1) the vehicle is maintained under a preventative maintenance plan approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and the Maryland State Police that includes an inspection at the end of the twelfth year and a minimum of two inspections by MVA each year thereafter; (2) any necessary structural

repairs are certified by an independent expert approved by MVA to meet or exceed the manufacturer's original manufacturing standards; (3) the school vehicle is equipped with specified features; and (4) the State Superintendent grants approval.

Additional Comments: The Maryland State Department of Education advised for a previous introduction of the bill that, except for the counties allowed under statute to operate school buses for 15 years, all other counties must annually submit a waiver request to the State Superintendent of Schools seeking approval to continue operation through year 15.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1441 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2023
km/hlb Third Reader - March 20, 2023

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