

**ALICE CAIN**  
*Legislative District 30A*  
Anne Arundel County

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Election Law Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Alice Cain  
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee**

**In Support of HB1226  
Vehicle Laws—School Bus Safety—Occupant Capacity**

**February 27, 2020**

**1:00pm**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

This bill provides a simple fix to a simple - and unacceptable - problem that puts students in danger.

The unacceptable problem is overcrowded school buses that don't have enough seats for all students. This means some students have to stand in the aisle or sit on the floor of the bus while riding to and from school. This goes against the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's recommendation that all school bus passengers be seated while a school bus is in motion.

Parents in my district reached out to me about this problem after their concerns were dismissed by school district officials that used state law as the rationale for overcrowded buses.

And I am sorry to say I have heard reports of a similar problem in at least two other counties as well.<sup>1</sup>

School safety is a priority for every parent - while in school and going to and from school. This bill will help.

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<sup>1</sup> Montgomery County

<https://bethesdamagazine.com/bethesda-beat/schools/parents-sound-alarms-about-crowded-school-buses/>

Baltimore County

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/education/bs-md-bus-driver-shortage-20190919-siey6q4sqne5xnvynzou5oc6b4-story.html>

Finally, I think the Fiscal Note assumes a worst-case scenario and does not give school districts credit for the likelihood that they could tweak some bus routes to solve this problem, rather than buy new school buses.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.