

MARY ANN LISANTI
Legislative District 34A
Harford County



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 415
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3331 · 301-858-3331
800-492-7122 Ext. 3331
Fax 410-841-3002 · 301-858-3002
MaryAnn.Lisanti@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Dereck Davis, Chairman
Economic Matters Committee
Members of the Economic Matters Committee

**RE: HB 1275 – Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund – School Bus Contractors
Request for Favorable Report**

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee:

This issue was brought to my attention via a local bill, HB 54 (Harford County Liability of School Bus Contractors), seeking immunity for school bus contractors beyond the contract coverage provided through the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

Testimony provided to the Harford County Delegation and the Ways and Means committee revealed that the underwriter for MABE recommended a reduction in coverage from 2 million to 1 million. Once the coverage amount was reduced by the Board of Education to 1 million dollar, the Harford County bus contractors began seeking alternative supplemental insurance.

Apparently this issue has been on-going in my county for nearly 5 years, and the local contractors have not been successful in obtaining additional coverage. HB 1275, seeks a state –wide remedy because a few other counties also have similar situations. This bill simply compels MAIF to explore and provide coverage options that will be made available to private bus services with contracts to county boards of education.

After consulting with MAIF, I believe this is a prudent approach and one of ultimate public safety for our children. It is regrettable, that this issue has lingered for so many years without resolve. I am confident that this committee is committed to protecting Maryland’s children and the contractors who carry them to and from school.

I pray that this issue is resolved quickly before an accident occurs and we find our liability coverage to be woefully inadequate, therefore I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1275.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Lisanti