



March 9, 2022

The Honorable Kumar Barve and Members
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support – HB 1303 – Motor Vehicles – Emergency Commercial Driver’s Licenses – Establishment

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports HB 1303 – Motor Vehicles – Emergency Commercial Driver’s Licenses – Establishment. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 18 of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State. MSBCA remains committed to the safety of the students they transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

As you well know, we are facing a severe school bus driver shortage. This shortage is not limited to Maryland – in Massachusetts earlier this school year, they had to rely on the National Guard to drive school buses so that kids could be transported to and from school. Here in Maryland, we have not yet had to resort to such measures but the emphasis there should be placed on the word “yet.” Countless numbers of buses were at a standstill at the beginning of this school year due to the fact that there simply were not enough drivers to drive them.

House Bill 1303 would authorize the MVA to establish a program to authorize certain former holders of a commercial driver’s license to obtain, under certain circumstances, an emergency CDL during a state of emergency declared by the Governor. This bill would assist greatly in getting properly-trained drivers behind the wheels of school buses here in Maryland, while not sacrificing safety.

Once again, MSBCA supports HB 1303 and asks for a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to our State.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson, President
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410.268.3099

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