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**By: Delegates Cadden, Conroy, C. Davis, Elliott, Harrison, Kirk, La Vay, Love, Perry,  
Pitkin, Stocksdale, Stull, and Watson**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Buses - Receiving and Discharging Passengers - Loading Zones**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting school vehicle drivers from using loading zones under  
4 certain circumstances; prohibiting school vehicle drivers from activating certain  
5 flashing signals under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the receiving  
6 and discharging of passengers on school vehicles on highways in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Transportation  
9 Section 22-228 (b) and (f)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Transportation**

15 22-228.

16 (b) Except as provided in [subsection] SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (F) of this section,  
17 a person may not operate any alternately flashing warning signal on any school vehicle  
18 except when the school vehicle is stopping or stopped on a roadway for the purpose of  
19 receiving or discharging passengers.

20 (f) (1) In this subsection, "loading zone" means an area on or adjacent to a  
21 highway, but not on its roadway:

22 (i) That has been designated for the purpose of receiving or  
23 discharging passengers by a school vehicle; and

24 (ii) Whose location has been approved by either the superintendent of  
25 schools in the local school system in which the loading is located, the Department of State  
26 Police, or the local police department, in cooperation with the State Highway  
27 Administration where applicable.

28 (2) It is the policy of this State to encourage the establishment and use of  
29 loading zones for school vehicles.

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1                   (3) [Where] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF  
2 THIS SUBSECTION, WHERE a loading zone is available, a school vehicle driver, unless  
3 otherwise required for safety, may not stop on the roadway for the purpose of receiving or  
4 discharging passengers, but shall use the loading zone for this purpose.

5                   (4) (I) A SCHOOL VEHICLE DRIVER MAY NOT OPERATE RED  
6 FLASHING SIGNALS ON THE SCHOOL VEHICLE WHEN RECEIVING OR DISCHARGING  
7 PASSENGERS IN A LOADING ZONE.

8                   (II) A SCHOOL VEHICLE DRIVER MAY NOT USE A LOADING ZONE FOR  
9 THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING OR DISCHARGING PASSENGERS, IF PASSENGERS MUST  
10 CROSS A HIGHWAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING OR EXITING THE SCHOOL  
11 VEHICLE.

12                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 1997.