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

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Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 1997

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Buses - Receiving and Discharging Passengers - ~~Loading Zones~~ Safety Study**

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~~ establishing a task force to study the
 6 safe boarding and discharging of children on school vehicles; providing for the
 7 membership of the task force; specifying the scope of the study and requiring a
 8 report of the task force's findings and recommendations by a specified date;
 9 requiring the Motor Vehicle Administrator to name the chairman of the task force
 10 and provide certain administrative support; providing for the effective date of this
 11 Act; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the study of
 12 safety issues pertaining to the receiving and discharging of passengers on school
 13 vehicles on highways in the State.

14 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
 15 ~~Article —Transportation~~
 16 ~~Section 22-228 (b) and (f)~~
 17 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 18 ~~(1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)~~

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

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1 **Article—Transportation**2 ~~22-228.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (4) ~~(I) A SCHOOL VEHICLE DRIVER MAY NOT OPERATE RED~~
 22 ~~FLASHING SIGNALS ON THE SCHOOL VEHICLE WHEN RECEIVING OR DISCHARGING~~
 23 ~~PASSENGERS IN A LOADING ZONE.~~

24 ~~(II) A SCHOOL VEHICLE DRIVER MAY NOT USE A LOADING ZONE FOR~~
 25 ~~THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING OR DISCHARGING PASSENGERS, IF PASSENGERS MUST~~
 26 ~~CROSS A HIGHWAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING OR EXITING THE SCHOOL~~
 27 ~~VEHICLE.~~

28 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Safe Boarding and Discharging of Children
 29 on School Vehicles.

30 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 9 members:

31 (1) Two employees of the Motor Vehicle Administration, appointed by the
 32 Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Administration;

33 (2) Two employees of the State Highway Administration, appointed by the
 34 Administrator of the State Highway Administration;

35 (3) Two representatives of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers,
 36 Inc. (Maryland PTA), appointed by the President of the Maryland PTA; and

37 (4) Three members of the Maryland Association of Pupil Transportation
 38 Supervisors representing different geographical regions of the State, appointed by the
 39 President of the Association.

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1 (c) The Task Force shall study:

2 (1) The use of loading zones for the purpose of receiving or discharging
3 students by school vehicles;

4 (2) The use of flashing red lights on school vehicles while in a loading zone
5 or while on a highway;

6 (3) The use of loading zones in situations where students would need to
7 cross a highway for purposes of boarding or exiting a school vehicle; and

8 (4) Any other issue that the Task Force deems pertinent in relation to the
9 safety of students boarding or exiting school vehicles.

10 (d) The Motor Vehicle Administrator shall:

11 (1) Name a chairman of the Task Force; and

12 (2) Provide administrative support for the meetings of the Task Force.

13 (e) On or before December 1, 1997, the Task Force shall issue a report of its
14 findings and its recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1312 of
15 the State Government Article, to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the
16 House of Delegates Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 ~~October~~ June 1, 1997. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end
19 of December 31, 1997, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
20 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.