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By: **Delegates Frank, Krysiak, and Redmer**  
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 1998  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore County - School Buses - Seat Belts**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a school bus in Baltimore County purchased after a  
4 certain date by a noncollegiate educational institution or a local school board of  
5 education, and used to transport children in Baltimore County, to be equipped  
6 with certain seat belts or other appropriate restraining devices; requiring the  
7 Motor Vehicle Administration to adopt regulations establishing standards for  
8 seat belts or other appropriate restraining devices required under this Act;  
9 requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to establish a program to equip  
10 in-use school buses in Baltimore County with seat belts or other appropriate  
11 restraining devices within a certain period of time; prohibiting, after a certain  
12 date, the use of a school bus to transport children in Baltimore County if the  
13 school bus is not equipped with seat belts or other appropriate restraining  
14 devices; and generally relating to school bus equipment in Baltimore County.

15 BY adding to  
16 Article - Education  
17 Section 2-206(l) and 7-805.1  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
21 Article - Transportation  
22 Section 11-153 and 11-173  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
26 Article - Transportation  
27 Section 22-412.1  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

3 **Article - Education**

4 2-206.

5 (L) IN BALTIMORE COUNTY, A SCHOOL BUS, AS DEFINED IN § 11-153 OF THE  
6 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE, THAT A NONCOLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION  
7 PURCHASES ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1998, SHALL COMPLY WITH § 22-412.1 OF THE  
8 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

9 7-805.1.

10 IN BALTIMORE COUNTY, A SCHOOL BUS, AS DEFINED IN § 11-153 OF THE  
11 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE, THAT THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PURCHASES  
12 ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1998, SHALL COMPLY WITH § 22-412.1 OF THE TRANSPORTATION  
13 ARTICLE.

14 **Article - Transportation**

15 11-153.

16 "School bus" means a Type I school vehicle, as defined in this subtitle.

17 11-173.

18 (a) "Type I school vehicle" means a school vehicle that:

19 (1) Is designed and constructed to carry passengers;

20 (2) Is either of the body-on-chassis type construction or integral type  
21 construction; and

22 (3) Has a gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds and provides  
23 a minimum of 13 inches of seating space per passenger.

24 (b) "Type I school vehicle" does not include any bus operated by a common  
25 carrier under the jurisdiction of a State, regional, or federal regulatory agency or  
26 operated by the agency itself.

27 22-412.1.

28 (A) Every motor vehicle that is used by nursery schools, camps, day nurseries,  
29 or day care centers for retarded children to transport children and that is not  
30 regulated as a "school bus" under this article, shall be equipped with seat belts for  
31 each seat and shall be subject to such other regulations as may be prescribed by the  
32 Administration.

1 (B) (1) IN BALTIMORE COUNTY, A SCHOOL BUS THAT IS PURCHASED ON OR  
2 AFTER JULY 1, 1998, AND USED TO TRANSPORT CHILDREN SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH  
3 SEAT BELTS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE RESTRAINING DEVICES FOR EACH SEAT.

4 (2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING  
5 STANDARDS FOR SEAT BELTS AND RESTRAINING DEVICES REQUIRED UNDER THIS  
6 SECTION.

7 (C) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO EQUIP  
8 IN-USE SCHOOL BUSES IN BALTIMORE COUNTY PURCHASED BEFORE JULY 1, 1998  
9 WITH SEAT BELTS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE RESTRAINING DEVICES IN ACCORDANCE  
10 WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S REGULAR SCHOOL BUS MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE.

11 (2) AFTER JULY 1, 2003, A SCHOOL BUS MAY NOT BE USED TO  
12 TRANSPORT CHILDREN IN BALTIMORE COUNTY UNLESS THE SCHOOL BUS IS  
13 EQUIPPED WITH SEAT BELTS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE RESTRAINING DEVICES FOR  
14 EACH SEAT.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 July 1, 1998.