

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 123 (Senator Middleton)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Vehicles Laws - School Buses - Pick Up and Discharge of Passengers**

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This bill requires school vehicle drivers to stop on the roadway to receive or discharge passengers when transporting them to and from school. This requirement does not apply in cases where school vehicle drivers are receiving and discharging passengers in an approved off-roadway loading zone. In addition the bill clarifies the definition of a loading zone and requires that a loading zone be used for passengers residing on the same side of the highway. The bill also clarifies provisions governing warning lights on school vehicles.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Compliance with the bill's requirements would not affect local school expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** School vehicle drivers either receive or discharge students on the roadway with the vehicle's red flashing lights activated, whereby motorists must stop, or at an off-roadway loading zone without the vehicle's red flashing lights activated, whereby motorists do not have to stop. The use of off-roadway loading zones must be approved by certain State and local officials. However, some school vehicle drivers have unilaterally decided to use non-approved off-roadway loading zones. This bill prohibits such practices.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services, Maryland Department of Transportation

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 28, 1999

ncs\jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 29, 1999

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