

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Mooney**
Requested: October 17, 2001
Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2002
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 21, 2002

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Buses - Years in Service - Time Limit Extension Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that the State Superintendent of
4 Schools grant approval for an extension to operate a school bus for more than a
5 certain number of years; and generally relating to school buses.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Education
8 Section 7-804
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Education**

14 7-804.

15 (a) Unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety
16 standards, a conventional school bus may be operated for 12 years.

17 (b) Notwithstanding the 12-year limitation in subsection (a) of this section, a
18 conventional school bus may be operated for additional years if:

19 (1) The bus is maintained under a preventive maintenance plan
20 approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Automotive Safety

1 Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that includes an inspection at
2 the end of the 12th year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle
3 Administration each year thereafter;

4 (2) Any structural repairs to the bus necessitated by accident, metal
5 fatigue, or any other cause are certified by an independent expert approved by the
6 Motor Vehicle Administration to meet or exceed the manufacturer's original
7 manufacturing standards; AND

8 (3) The bus is equipped with:

9 (i) The body originally placed on the bus chassis by the
10 manufacturer;

11 (ii) An 8 light warning system;

12 (iii) A left side stop arm;

13 (iv) A fire-retardant driver's seat;

14 (v) Fire-retardant barriers in the case of a bus with a front engine;
15 AND

16 (vi) A fire-retardant rear seating area in the case of a bus with a
17 rear engine[]; and

18 (4) The State Superintendent grants approval].

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2002.