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By: **Delegates Bozman and Conway**  
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2003  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - School Buses - Length of Operation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a school bus may be operated;  
4 repealing the authority to operate a school bus longer than a certain number of  
5 years; and generally relating to the length of time a school bus may be operated.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Education  
8 Section 7-804  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 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] 15 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  
21 Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that includes an inspection at  
22 the end of the 12th year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle  
23 Administration each year thereafter;

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

- 1                   (3)     The bus is equipped with:
- 2                   (i)     The body originally placed on the bus chassis by the
- 3 manufacturer;
- 4                   (ii)    An 8 light warning system;
- 5                   (iii)   A left side stop arm;
- 6                   (iv)    A fire-retardant driver's seat;
- 7                   (v)     Fire-retardant barriers in the case of a bus with a front engine;
- 8 AND
- 9                   (vi)    A fire-retardant rear seating area in the case of a bus with a
- 10 rear engine; and
- 11                  (4)     The State Superintendent grants approval.]

12     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take

13 effect July 1, 2003.