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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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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 21, 2003

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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

1 the end of the 12th year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle  
2 Administration each year thereafter;

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

7           (3)       The bus is equipped with:

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

10                  (ii)       An 8 light warning system;

11                  (iii)       A left side stop arm;

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

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

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

17           (4)       The State Superintendent grants approval.]

18       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
19 effect July 1, 2003.