

SENATE BILL 29

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(PRE-FILED)

9lr0822

CF 9lr0887

By: **Senator Colburn**

Requested: October 21, 2008

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2009

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Talbot County – School Buses – Length of Operation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a school bus may be operated in Talbot
4 County; and generally relating to school bus operation in Talbot County.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Education
7 Section 7–804
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2008 Replacement Volume)

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

12 **Article – Education**

13 7–804.

14 (a) In this section, “school vehicle” has the meaning stated in § 11–154 of the
15 Transportation Article.

16 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection,
17 unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards, a
18 school vehicle may be operated for 12 years.

19 (2) (i) In Dorchester, Somerset, **TALBOT**, Wicomico, and Worcester
20 counties, unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety
21 standards, a school vehicle may be operated for 15 years.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) A school vehicle operating under subparagraph (i) of this
2 paragraph shall be maintained as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

3 (3) Any school vehicle in operation or accepted before July 1, 2004, or
4 under contract to be purchased before July 1, 2004, that meets the specifications of the
5 Department and of the Motor Vehicle Administration for transit style school vehicles
6 may be operated for 15 years.

7 (c) Notwithstanding the 12-year limitation in subsection (b)(1) of this
8 section, a school vehicle may be operated for additional years if:

9 (1) The school vehicle is maintained under a preventive maintenance
10 plan approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Automotive Safety
11 Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that includes an inspection at
12 the end of the 12th year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle
13 Administration each year thereafter;

14 (2) Any structural repairs to the school vehicle necessitated by
15 accident, metal fatigue, or any other cause are certified by an independent expert
16 approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration to meet or exceed the manufacturer's
17 original manufacturing standards;

18 (3) The school vehicle is equipped with:

19 (i) The body originally placed on the chassis by the
20 manufacturer;

21 (ii) An 8 light warning system;

22 (iii) A left side stop arm;

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

24 (v) Fire-retardant barriers in the case of a school vehicle with a
25 front engine; and

26 (vi) A fire-retardant rear seating area in the case of a school
27 vehicle with a rear engine; and

28 (4) The State Superintendent grants approval.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2009.