

# CHAPTER 340

**(House Bill 727)**

AN ACT concerning

## **Caroline County – School Buses – Length of Operation**

FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a school bus may be operated in Caroline County; providing for the effective date of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the length of time a school bus may be operated in Caroline County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education  
Section 7–804  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education  
Section 7–804  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume)  
(As enacted by Chapters 637 and 638 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2008)

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

### **Article – Education**

7–804.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) The school vehicle is equipped with:

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

(ii) An 8 light warning system;

(iii) A left side stop arm;

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

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

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

(4) The State Superintendent grants approval.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### **Article - Education**

7-804.

(a) In this section, "school vehicle" has the meaning stated in § 11-154 of the Transportation Article.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) The school vehicle is equipped with:

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

(ii) An 8 light warning system;

(iii) A left side stop arm;

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

- (v) Fire-retardant barriers in the case of a school vehicle with a front engine; and
- (vi) A fire-retardant rear seating area in the case of a school vehicle with a rear engine; and

(4) The State Superintendent grants approval.

**SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 2 of Chapters 637 and 638 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2008. If that termination provision takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. This Act may not be interpreted to have any effect on that termination provision.

**SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That, subject to the provisions of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

**Approved by the Governor, May 7, 2009.**