

# SENATE BILL 478

F1, R6

2lr2190

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By: **Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 30, 2012

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – School Buses – Fire Safety Standards for Engine Components –**  
3 **Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring ~~a school bus engine compartment to be constructed with~~  
5 ~~certain materials that enable it to meet certain flammability criteria; requiring~~  
6 ~~a school bus engine compartment to achieve a certain classification under a~~  
7 ~~certain safety standard relating to flammability~~ the State Department of  
8 Education to conduct a certain study and make a certain report to certain  
9 committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally  
10 relating to a study of fire safety standards for engine components in school  
11 buses.

12 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
13 ~~Article – Education~~  
14 ~~Section 7–808~~  
15 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
16 ~~(2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)~~

17 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~  
18 ~~Article – Transportation~~  
19 ~~Section 11–153 and 11–154~~  
20 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
21 ~~(2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)~~

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

(1) the State Department of Education shall research and explore ways to reduce the flammability of the plastic components contained in a school bus engine compartments;

(2) the study described in item (1) of this section shall include cost estimates for compliance with the Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Standard 94 (UL 94), "Standard for Safety of Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances Testing" and for equipping school buses with an emergency fire suppression system; and

(3) on or before December 1, 2012, the State Department of Education shall report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee regarding the results of the study under this section.

#### ~~Article — Education~~

~~7-808.~~

~~(a) In this section, "school bus" has the meaning stated in § 11-153 of the Transportation Article.~~

~~(b) (1) A school bus shall be constructed with materials that enable it to meet [all];~~

~~(i) ALL the criteria of the school bus seat upholstery fire block test established by the National School Transportation specifications and procedures adopted at the most recent National Congress on School Transportation; AND~~

~~(ii) ALL THE CRITERIA FOR FLAMMABILITY OF PLASTIC COMPONENTS CONTAINED IN A SCHOOL BUS ENGINE COMPARTMENT AS STATED UNDER THE MOST RECENT UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INC STANDARD 94 (UL 94), "STANDARD FOR SAFETY OF FLAMMABILITY OF PLASTIC MATERIALS FOR PARTS IN DEVICES AND APPLIANCES TESTING".~~

~~(2) AT A MINIMUM, A SCHOOL BUS ENGINE COMPARTMENT MUST ACHIEVE A V O CLASSIFICATION UNDER THE UL 94 STANDARD DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(H) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

~~(c) The Motor Vehicle Administration, with the advice of the Department, shall adopt regulations to promote fire safety standards of school buses.~~

~~Article Transportation~~~~11-153.~~~~“School bus” means a Type I school vehicle, as defined in this subtitle.~~~~11-154.~~~~(a) “School vehicle” means, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any motor vehicle that:~~~~(1) Is used regularly for the exclusive transportation of children, students, or teachers for educational purposes or in connection with a school activity; and~~~~(2) Is either:~~~~(i) A Type I school vehicle, as defined in this subtitle; or~~~~(ii) A Type II school vehicle, as defined in this subtitle.~~~~(b) “School vehicle” does not include:~~~~(1) A privately owned vehicle while it is carrying members of its owner’s household and not operated for compensation; or~~~~(2) A vehicle that is registered as a Class M (multipurpose) vehicle under § 13-937 of this article or a Class A (passenger) vehicle under § 13-912 of this article and used to transport children between one or more schools or licensed child care centers or to and from designated areas that are approved by the Administration if:~~~~(i) The vehicle is designed for carrying 15 persons or less, including the driver;~~~~(ii) The children are permitted to embark or exit the vehicle only at a school or child care center or a designated area approved by the Administration;~~~~(iii) The owner has obtained vehicle liability insurance or other security as required by Title 17 of this article; and~~~~(iv) The vehicle is equipped with proper seat belts or safety seats so as to permit each child to be secured in a seat belt or a safety seat as required by §§ 22-412.2 and 22-412.3 of this article.~~

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   ~~October~~ July 1, 2012.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.