

HOUSE BILL 276

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9lr1501
CF SB 215

By: **Allegany County Delegation and Chair, Garrett County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Allegany County and Garrett County – School Buses – Length of Operation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a school vehicle may be operated in Allegany
4 County and Garrett County; and generally relating to school vehicle operations in
5 Allegany County and Garrett County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Education
8 Section 7–804
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 7–804.

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

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

20 (2) (i) In **ALLEGANY**, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester,
21 **GARRETT**, Kent, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester
22 counties, unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety
23 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 under
4 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 may
6 be operated for 15 years.

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

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

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

18 (3) The school vehicle is equipped with:

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

20 (ii) An 8 light warning system;

21 (iii) A left side stop arm;

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

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

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

27 (4) The State Superintendent grants approval.

28 (d) If a school vehicle passes an inspection that is required under subsection (c)(1)
29 of this section:

30 (1) The inspection shall be valid in the county in which the inspection was
31 completed; and

1 (2) If ownership of the school vehicle is transferred to a person who
2 operates the school vehicle in a county in which school vehicles are authorized under
3 subsection (b)(2) of this section to be operated for 15 years, the inspection shall be valid in
4 that county for the length of time that the inspection would have been valid in the county
5 where the inspection was completed.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2019.