

HOUSE BILL 283

R5
HB 87/21 – ENT

2lr1361
CF 2lr1362

By: **Delegate D. Jones**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – School Bus Safety – Occupant Capacity**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a school bus be routed with the intent that the number
4 of pupils on the bus does not exceed the manufacturer’s rated seating capacity for
5 the bus; requiring that, if an emergency or temporary situation causes the number
6 of pupils to exceed the rated seating capacity, the situation be corrected within a
7 reasonable period of time; and generally relating to school bus safety.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 21–1118(a) and (b)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 21–1118(c)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Transportation**

21 21–1118.

22 (a) The driver of a school bus:

23 (1) Is responsible for its operation; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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1 (2) May not drive it into any roadway without first stopping and
2 determining that there is no danger from any other vehicle.

3 (b) The person responsible for any pupils on a school bus is:

4 (1) The teacher on the bus; or

5 (2) If a teacher is not present, the driver.

6 (c) **(1) A SCHOOL BUS SHALL BE ROUTED WITH THE INTENT THAT THE**
7 **NUMBER OF PUPILS ON THE BUS DOES NOT EXCEED THE MANUFACTURER'S RATED**
8 **SEATING CAPACITY FOR THE BUS.**

9 **(2) IF AN EMERGENCY OR OTHER TEMPORARY SITUATION CAUSES**
10 **THE NUMBER OF PUPILS ON A SCHOOL BUS TO EXCEED THE SEATING CAPACITY OF**
11 **THE BUS, THE SITUATION SHALL BE CORRECTED WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF**
12 **TIME.**

13 **(3) A person responsible for pupils on a school bus may not permit the**
14 **number of standing pupils to exceed one pupil for each part of the aisle that is bounded on**
15 **both sides by forward facing seats.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2022.