

Chapter 790

(Senate Bill 491)

AN ACT concerning

**Charles County Board of Education – School Bus Contractor Employees – Negotiations – Task Force to Study School Bus Operator Contracts and Wages**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring that the Charles County Board of Education be considered as a joint employer of certain school bus contractor employees for certain purposes; requiring the Board to include representatives who reflect the interests of the employees in negotiations over a master school bus service contract; and generally relating to the Charles County Board of Education and school bus contractor employees~~ establishing the Task Force to Study School Bus Operator Contracts and Wages in Charles County; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study School Bus Operator Contracts and Wages.

~~BY adding to~~  
~~Article – Local Government~~  
~~Section 11-602~~  
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
~~(2013 Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

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

**~~Article – Local Government~~**

**~~11-602.~~**

~~(A) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS A JOINT EMPLOYER OF SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES WHO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY UNDER A MASTER SCHOOL BUS SERVICE CONTRACT REGARDING MATTERS OF SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTOR WAGES, BENEFITS, AND WORKPLACE RULES AND POLICIES.~~

~~(B) THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES WHO REFLECT THE INTERESTS OF SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTORS OVER A MASTER SCHOOL BUS SERVICE CONTRACT.~~

(a) There is a Task Force to Study School Bus Operator Contracts and Wages in Charles County.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Charles County, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates who represents Charles County, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) one Charles County Commissioner, designated by the President of the ~~Commission~~ Commissioner;

(4) the Chair of the Charles County Board of Education, or the Chair's designee;

(5) the Superintendent of Charles County Public Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

(6) three members of the Charles County Bus Contractors Association, designated by the President of the Association; and

(7) three members of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 689, designated by the President of the Union.

(c) The President of the ~~Commission~~ Commissioner shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Maryland Department of Labor shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) study issues related to student transportation, bus driver wages, and multiyear contracts for bus contractors in Charles County; and

(2) research best practices in surrounding jurisdictions related to the facilitation of student transportation.

(g) On or before September 1, 2023, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the members of the Charles County Delegation to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2023.**