

HOUSE BILL 811

L1

5lr2131
CF SB 526

By: **Delegates Terrasa, Charkoudian, Feldmark, Kaufman, R. Lewis, Patterson, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Counties – Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks – Safe Alternative Routes**
3 **to Public Schools**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a county board of education each year to prepare and post in
5 a certain manner a report that identifies pathways that public school students may
6 use to travel to school using only safe alternative routes under certain circumstances;
7 requiring the governing body of a county each year to review a certain report and
8 construct any sidewalks and crosswalks necessary to create safe alternative routes
9 for public school students under certain circumstances; requiring the governing body
10 of a county to develop a certain plan with a certain governmental entity or person
11 and make certain efforts to execute the plan under certain circumstances; and
12 generally relating to safe alternative routes to public schools.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 7–801(b)(1)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Education
20 Section 7–801(e)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 BY adding to
24 Article – Local Government
25 Section 12–506.1
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2013 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 7–801.

5 (b) (1) At its own expense, a county governing body may provide
6 transportation for public school students in addition to the transportation provided by the
7 State.

8 **(E) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “SAFE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE” INCLUDES:**

9 **(I) A ROAD WITH SIDEWALKS AND, AT INTERSECTIONS,**
10 **CROSSWALKS;**

11 **(II) A FOOT PATH; AND**

12 **(III) A BIKE PATH.**

13 **(2) EACH YEAR, A COUNTY BOARD SHALL PREPARE A REPORT THAT**
14 **IDENTIFIES:**

15 **(I) FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY, THOSE AREAS**
16 **OF THE COUNTY WHERE A STUDENT WHO IS REGULARLY ASSIGNED TO THE SCHOOL**
17 **WOULD BE INELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BASED ON THE DISTANCE**
18 **BETWEEN A RESIDENCE AND THE SCHOOL; AND**

19 **(II) PATHWAYS THAT A STUDENT RESIDING IN AN AREA**
20 **IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY USE TO TRAVEL BETWEEN**
21 **THE STUDENT’S RESIDENCE AND REGULARLY ASSIGNED SCHOOL USING ONLY A**
22 **SAFE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE OR A CONTIGUOUS SERIES OF SAFE ALTERNATIVE**
23 **ROUTES.**

24 **(3) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL POST TO THE COUNTY’S WEBSITE**
25 **EACH REPORT PREPARED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

26 **Article – Local Government**

27 **12–506.1.**

28 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “SAFE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE” HAS THE MEANING**
29 **STATED IN § 7–801 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.**

1 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL COUNTIES.**

2 **(C) EACH YEAR, THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY SHALL:**

3 **(1) REVIEW THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER § 7-801(E)(2) OF THE**
4 **EDUCATION ARTICLE; AND**

5 **(2) CONSTRUCT ANY SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS NECESSARY TO**
6 **CREATE SAFE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR STUDENTS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT.**

7 **(D) IF THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY MUST ALTER A ROAD THAT IS**
8 **NOT SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTY IN ORDER TO MEET THE**
9 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNING BODY SHALL:**

10 **(1) DEVELOP A PLAN WITH THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR PERSON**
11 **THAT HAS CONTROL OF THE ROAD; AND**

12 **(2) MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO EXECUTE THE PLAN IN AN**
13 **EXPEDITIOUS MANNER.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
15 1, 2025.