

# SENATE BILL 526

L1  
SB 200/24 – EEE

5lr2097  
CF 5lr2131

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By: **Senators Ellis and Lewis Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## 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)

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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.