

SENATE BILL 158

L1
SB 526/25 – EEE

(PRE-FILED)

6lr1158
CF 6lr2436

By: Senator Ellis

Requested: October 10, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Education

20 Section 7–801(e)

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 BY adding to

24 Article – Local Government

25 Section 12–506.1

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

27 (2013 Volume and 2025 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.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL COUNTIES.

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

(1) REVIEW THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER § 7-801(E)(2) OF THE
N ARTICLE; AND

(2) CONSTRUCT ANY SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS NECESSARY TO
FEE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR STUDENTS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT.

(D) IF THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY MUST ALTER A ROAD THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTY IN ORDER TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNING BODY SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP A PLAN WITH THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR PERSON
CONTROL OF THE ROAD; AND

(2) MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO EXECUTE THE PLAN IN AN
HONEST MANNER.

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