

SENATE BILL 292

F1, R2

6lr2559
CF HB 319

By: **Senator Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Student Transportation – Sunset Repeal and**
3 **Study**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the termination date of certain provisions of law that
5 authorize a county board of education to provide transportation to and from school
6 for certain students using a vehicle other than a certain type of school vehicle under
7 certain circumstances; authorizing a county board to contract with a certain
8 transportation network company if the transportation network operator meets
9 certain requirements; requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation
10 with county boards and the Motor Vehicle Administration, to study the current
11 regulations for vehicles other than a certain type of school vehicle; and generally
12 relating to vehicles for student transportation and county boards of education.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Chapter 197 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021
15 Section 3

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Chapter 198 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021
18 Section 3

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Education
21 Section 7–801
22 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

4 **Chapter 197 of the Acts of 2021**

5 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2021. [It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,
7 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
8 of no further force and effect.]

9 **Chapter 198 of the Acts of 2021**

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2021. [It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,
12 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
13 of no further force and effect.]

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
15 as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 7–801.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) (i) “Nonpublic school” means an elementary or secondary school in
20 the State that is not part of the public elementary and secondary education system of this
21 State.

22 (ii) “Nonpublic school” includes an elementary or secondary school
23 in Calvert County that does not receive State aid.

24 (3) “Public school bus” includes any other conveyance used to transport
25 students to a public school.

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

29 (2) In Montgomery County, a fee may not be charged for transporting
30 public school students to school from their designated bus stop locations or from school to
31 their designated bus stop locations.

1 (c) (1) A county board may provide transportation to and from school using a
2 vehicle other than a Type I or Type II school vehicle, as defined in § 11-154 of the
3 Transportation Article, when a school vehicle cannot reasonably be provided for the
4 following public school students:

5 (i) Preschool-age students;

6 (ii) Students with disabilities;

7 (iii) Homeless youth;

8 (iv) Children in foster care;

9 (v) Students without access to school buses;

10 (vi) Students in a nonpublic school placement; or

11 (vii) Students in dual enrollment programs, work programs, or other
12 educational programs based off the school campus.

13 (2) A county board may provide transportation in accordance with this
14 subsection to a particular student group that is not listed under paragraph (1) of this
15 subsection through a written determination by the county board.

16 (3) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS
17 SUBSECTION, THE Department, in consultation with county boards and the Motor Vehicle
18 Administration, shall adopt regulations establishing minimum vehicle and driver safety
19 standards for transportation provided in accordance with this subsection.

20 (4) A COUNTY BOARD MAY CONTRACT WITH A TRANSPORTATION
21 NETWORK COMPANY THAT DOES NOT MEET THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE
22 DEPARTMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TO TRANSPORT NOT
23 MORE THAN TWO STUDENTS SIMULTANEOUSLY, IF THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
24 OPERATOR:

25 (I) MEETS THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE PUBLIC
26 SERVICE COMMISSION FOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY OPERATORS;

27 (II) SUBMITS TO:

28 1. A BACKGROUND CHECK UNDER § 6-113.1 OF THIS
29 ARTICLE; AND

30 2. A FINGERPRINT-BASED STATE AND NATIONAL
31 CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK;

1 (III) USES A VEHICLE DESIGNED TO SEAT NOT MORE THAN 10
2 INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THE DRIVER; AND

3 (IV) MEETS ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE
4 COUNTY BOARD CONTRACTING WITH THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY.

5 (d) (1) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subsection, in
6 Calvert County the county board may provide transportation to and from school on a public
7 school bus for a student who attends a nonpublic school.

8 (2) Transportation offered by the Calvert County Board under this section
9 shall be offered to a student attending a nonpublic school:

10 (i) If there is sufficient capacity on the school bus;

11 (ii) If the student resides on, along, or near a public highway in the
12 county on which a public school bus or conveyance operates;

13 (iii) If the student resides in the public school transportation district
14 served by the public school bus;

15 (iv) Only on the routes, school days, and hours of transportation that
16 coincide with the routes, school days, and hours of transportation for students attending
17 public schools in the county; and

18 (v) In the case of a student who attends a nonpublic school that is
19 not on the public school bus route, only to the public school on the route which is nearest to
20 the nonpublic school.

21 (3) The Calvert County Board is not responsible for the safety of any
22 nonpublic school student who is transported on a public school bus under this subsection
23 after the student is discharged from the public school bus, and the board may not be held
24 liable in any civil action arising from an act or omission that occurs after the student is
25 discharged from the public school bus.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

27 (a) The State Department of Education, in consultation with county boards of
28 education and the Motor Vehicle Administration, shall review the regulations adopted
29 under § 7-801(c) of the Education Article, as enacted by Chapters 197 and 198 of the Acts
30 of the General Assembly of 2021, authorizing vehicles other than Type I and Type II school
31 vehicles to transport public school students.

32 (b) In reviewing the regulations, the Department shall examine:

1 (1) the requirements for vehicles other than Type I and Type II school
2 vehicles, including whether they arbitrarily distinguish between different operators of a
3 vehicle, different types of vehicles, and the number of passengers transported;

4 (2) the requirements for the drivers of vehicles other than Type I and Type
5 II school vehicles, including whether they adequately ensure drivers are prepared for
6 transporting public school students; and

7 (3) the regulations adopted by the Public Service Commission for
8 transportation network operators and whether the regulations adopted by the Department
9 can be brought into alignment with those regulations without sacrificing student safety.

10 (c) On or before January 1, 2027, the State Department of Education shall report
11 on the results of its review to the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
12 Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the
13 State Government Article.

14 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

15 (a) If the State Department of Education adopts regulations regarding student
16 transportation after the review of the regulations adopted under § 7–801(c) of the Education
17 Article, as enacted by Chapters 197 and 198 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021,
18 authorizing vehicles other than Type I and Type II school vehicles to transport public school
19 students, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

20 (b) The State Department of Education shall notify the Department of Legislative
21 Services within 5 days after the effective date of the regulations adopted in accordance with
22 subsection (a) of this section.

23 SECTION ~~2~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 June 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.