

SENATE BILL 574

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6lr3015
CF 6lr3012

By: **Charles County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Charles County – Student Bus Transportation Providers – Provider**
3 **Displacement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Charles County Board of Education to provide certain
5 notice and hold a certain public hearing before taking any action that results in a
6 certain displacement of a person that has been providing student bus transportation
7 services in Charles County; and generally relating to student bus transportation
8 services in Charles County.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7–811
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 **7–811.**

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “DISPLACEMENT” MEANS THE PROVISION OF**
19 **STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BY THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF**
20 **EDUCATION IN A MANNER THAT PRECLUDES A PRIVATE PERSON THAT HAS BEEN**
21 **PROVIDING THE SERVICES FROM CONTINUING TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES.**

22 **(2) “DISPLACEMENT” DOES NOT INCLUDE CIRCUMSTANCES IN**
23 **WHICH:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(I) THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DOES NOT RENEW A CONTRACT FOR STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR CAUSE, AND AT THE END OF THE CONTRACT TERM, CONTRACTS WITH ANOTHER PRIVATE PERSON TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES; OR

(II) THE PERSON THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:

1. HAS BEEN FOUND TO HAVE ACTED IN A MANNER THREATENING TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY;

2. HAS BEEN FOUND TO HAVE COMMITTED A MATERIAL BREACH OF A CONTRACT FOR STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; OR

3. REFUSES TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AN EXISTING AGREEMENT.

(B) AT LEAST 10 YEARS BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION THAT RESULTS IN THE DISPLACEMENT OF A PERSON THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDING STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN CHARLES COUNTY, THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL:

(1) PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE INTENT TO DISPLACE, SENT BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL AT LEAST 45 DAYS BEFORE THE HEARING REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TO EACH PERSON THAT PROVIDES THE SERVICES IN CHARLES COUNTY; AND

(2) (I) HOLD AT LEAST ONE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADVISABILITY OF THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PROVIDING THE STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; AND

(II) PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE HEARING TO THE PUBLIC BY PUBLISHING A NOTIFICATION IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY ONCE EACH WEEK FOR 2 SUCCESSIVE WEEKS BEFORE THE HEARING.

(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING, AND AT LEAST 2 YEARS BEFORE ANY DISPLACEMENT, THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE BY REGISTERED MAIL OF THE DISPLACEMENT TO THE PERSON PROVIDING THE STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

1 **(2) THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY BEGIN**
2 **PROVIDING STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OR CONTRACT WITH**
3 **ANOTHER PERSON TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES LESS THAN 2 YEARS AFTER**
4 **PROVIDING THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF:**

5 **(i) THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PAYS THE**
6 **DISPLACED PERSON THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE SERVICES AN AMOUNT EQUAL**
7 **TO THE PERSON’S GROSS RECEIPTS FOR PROVIDING THE SERVICES IN THE COUNTY**
8 **FOR THE PRECEDING 24-MONTH PERIOD;**

9 **(ii) THE CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE**
10 **PERSON THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE SERVICES AGREE TO A DIFFERENT NOTICE**
11 **PERIOD OR COMPENSATION AMOUNT; OR**

12 **(iii) THE PERSON STOPS PROVIDING THE SERVICES IN THE**
13 **COUNTY.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
15 1, 2026.