

SENATE BILL 968

R6, F1

6lr3605
CF HB 1610

By: **Senator Gallion**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Energy, and the Environment, February 22, 2026

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – School Bus – Fire Safety Standards**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~repealing~~ exempting the driver's seat of a school bus from the
4 requirement that a school bus be constructed with certain materials that enable it
5 to meet certain criteria established by the National School Transportation
6 specifications and procedures adopted by the most recent National Congress on
7 School Transportation; and generally relating to school bus fire safety standards.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 7–808
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 7–808.

17 (a) In this section, “school bus” has the meaning stated in § 11–153 of the
18 Transportation Article.

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 (b) **(1) ~~[A]~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
 2 **SUBSECTION, A** school bus shall be constructed with materials that enable it to meet all
 3 the criteria of the school bus seat upholstery fire block test established by the National
 4 School Transportation specifications and procedures adopted at the most recent National
 5 Congress on School Transportation.

6 **(2) THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DO**
 7 **NOT APPLY TO THE DRIVER’S SEAT OF A SCHOOL BUS.**

8 (c) The Motor Vehicle Administration, with the advice of the Department, shall
 9 adopt regulations to promote fire safety standards of school buses.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 11 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.