



HB1234 COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION - STUDENT TRANSPORTATION - VEHICLES

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB1234 County Boards of Education - Student Transportation - Vehicles**. This bill authorizes a county board of education to provide transportation for specified public school students to and from school using a vehicle other than a Type I or Type II school vehicle when a school vehicle cannot reasonably be provided.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) generally requires Type I and Type II school vehicles to be used to transport students to and from school and school related activities when local school system sponsored transportation services are provided. However, MSDE does provide exceptions in some specific instances.

Over the years, local school systems' responsibilities for transporting students have significantly expanded due to additional costs associated with the transporting of special education, nonpublic placement and homeless students. HB1234 provides needed flexibility in transporting eligible students. It is not always feasible, practicable, possible, or economical to utilize a Type I or Type II school bus vehicle in all instances. This legislation provides some relief for local school systems when the use of a conventional school bus cannot reasonably be provided. HB1234 could also provide some relief to the ongoing bus driver shortage being felt by local school systems. While it is difficult to quantify, this legislation could result in cost savings in instances when a vehicle other than a Type I or Type II school bus vehicle is utilized.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB1234.