



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1451
TITLE: School Bus Purchasing – Zero-Emission Vehicle – Requirement
DATE: 3/4/2020
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1451.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) opposes HB1451 as it is currently written. MCPS could support this effort if there is dedicated state funding to fully support the increased costs. MCPS is exploring a business model to purchase electric school buses that would be cost neutral. Currently, an electric school bus is approximately \$200,000 more than a diesel school bus.

This bill would have a major fiscal impact. The current cost of MCPS school buses is approximately \$150,000. On an annual basis, MCPS purchases 120 new school buses. Electric school buses are an estimated additional \$200,000 per bus. The additional expenditure for 120 school buses at \$200,000 each bus with 6-year financing totals \$4,000,000 to be added to the FY 2024 budget and subsequent budgets.

Additionally, there are concerns as to whether school bus manufacturers can realistically meet this demand by 2023 for all jurisdictions in the state. Despite these factors, MCPS's goal is to electrify the school bus fleet as soon as funding allows.

For these reasons, the Board **opposes** this legislation and urges an unfavorable report.