



HB1451 SCHOOL BUS PURCHASING – ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE – REQUIREMENT

March 4, 2020

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1451 School Bus Purchasing – Zero-Emission Vehicle – Requirement**. This bill requires each school bus purchased by a local school system to be a zero-emission vehicle beginning October 1, 2023. In addition, beginning October 1, 2026, the bill requires each school bus purchased by a person for use under a contract with a local school system to be a zero-emission vehicle.

This legislation is an unfunded mandate. The technology associated with zero-emissions public school buses has not advanced to the point where buses can reliably run for the required and comparable number of hours or miles, as is the case with our existing diesel bus fleet. Currently, AACPS buses begin operation prior to 6:00 a.m. and may not end the service day until after 9:00 p.m. when athletics or other co-curricular or extracurricular activities conclude. Existing zero-emission buses cannot maintain this routine and there is insufficient idle time within the day to stop and recharge a zero-emission bus. In addition, charging stations would need to be installed countywide, at an exorbitant cost, because the buses do not always return to a centralized bus depot. This legislation could potentially require AACPS to double its combined bus fleet from approximately 700 to 1,400 buses to have dedicated morning and afternoon fleets to enable sufficient charging time and charging slots. We estimate the cost to increase our bus fleet to be \$10 million to \$15 million in addition to CIP funding for start-up charging station costs, and approximately \$9 million in operating costs.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1451.