



January 20, 2021

The Honorable Anne Kaiser and Members  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: FWA – HB373 – Child Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention - Hiring Emergent Employees**

Dear Chair Kaiser and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports with one amendment HB373 – Child Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention - Hiring Emergent Employees. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 18 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State. MSBCA remains committed to the safety of the students they transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

In addition to our commitment to vehicular safety, MSBCA is committed to ensuring the personal safety of each and every student we transport. All of our drivers must complete criminal background and fingerprint checks prior to employment and the vast majority of our buses are equipped with cameras that audiovisually record everything that occurs onboard the bus. We support the intent of the bill last year to further ensure student safety by requiring additional background checks for all school employees and contractors and we appreciate the willingness of the sponsor to introduce HB373 to make the requirements slightly less burdensome while not sacrificing student safety.

The amendment we ask that you consider would permit school bus contractor companies and the county boards of education with which they contract to share the completed background checks for contracted drivers required under this bill. It would permit a school bus driver currently driving in Baltimore County and seeking to drive in Howard County as well to avoid an entirely duplicative background check process. As the bill is currently drafted, this would be the case for county and non-public school employees. We would just ask that the same streamlining ability be granted to contractors as well, while again, not sacrificing student safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Steve Nelson*

Steve Nelson, President  
1 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21403  
410.268.3099

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HOUSE BILL 373 of 2021

Child Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention - Hiring Emergent Employees

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20 (F) A COUNTY BOARD, ~~OR~~ NONPUBLIC SCHOOL OR SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTOR COMPANY UNDER CONTRACT  
21 WITH A COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD IS AUTHORIZED TO SHARE AN

22 EMPLOYMENT HISTORY REVIEW REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS

23 SECTION WITH OTHER COUNTY BOARDS AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS.

24 (G) A COUNTY BOARD OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MAY USE AN EMPLOYMENT

25 HISTORY REVIEW REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION COMPLETED

26 BY A CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYER IF THE EMPLOYER IS A COUNTY BOARD, ~~OR~~

27 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTOR COMPANY UNDER CONTRACT WITH A COUNTY SCHOOL  
28 BOARD AND THE APPLICANT:

29 (1) SWEARS OR AFFIRMS THAT THE COMPLETED EMPLOYMENT

30 HISTORY REVIEW INCLUDES ALL PRIOR EMPLOYMENT REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED

31 UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

32 (2) PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT ANY EMPLOYMENT SUBSEQUENT

TO THE PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT HISTORY REVIEW BY THE CURRENT OR FORMER

COUNTY BOARD.

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