

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 1055

HOUSE BILL 1055

R2, F1

2lr2701

By: **Delegate Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

Assigned to: Appropriations and Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation - Student Transportation - ~~Transit Buses and~~ Carpooling**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to provide middle~~
4 ~~school and high school students in Baltimore City with a tangible and digital student~~
5 ~~transit pass and student transit identification card; authorizing a student who loses~~
6 ~~a student transit pass or student transit identification card and appears to be under~~
7 ~~a certain age to ride a transit bus without charge; prohibiting the Administration~~
8 ~~from imposing any restrictions on the use of a student transit pass; establishing a~~
9 ~~Student Carpool Incentive Program; requiring the State Department of~~
10 ~~Transportation to provide a certain amount to schools and carpool drivers~~
11 ~~participating in the Program; requiring the Administration on or before a certain~~
12 ~~date for certain years, to increase bus driver pay by a certain amount per hour;~~
13 ~~requiring the Administration, on or before a certain date for certain years, to add a~~
14 ~~certain number of transit buses to the Baltimore City weekday fleet; requiring a~~
15 ~~transit bus to stop for certain individuals; establishing the Workgroup on Student Carpools;~~
16 and generally relating to student
transportation ~~and bus transit.~~

17 ~~BY adding to~~
18 ~~Article - Education~~
19 ~~Section 7-810 and 7-811~~
20 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
21 ~~(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)~~

22 ~~BY adding to~~
23 ~~Article - Transportation~~
24 ~~Section 7-710 and 7-714~~
25 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
26 ~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)~~

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

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~~Article—Education~~

2 ~~7-810.~~

3 ~~(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN BALTIMORE CITY.~~

4 ~~(B) (1) THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE~~
5 ~~MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH A TANGIBLE AND DIGITAL:~~

6 ~~(I) STUDENT TRANSIT PASS; AND~~

7 ~~(II) STUDENT TRANSIT IDENTIFICATION CARD.~~

8 ~~(2) A STUDENT WHO LOSES A STUDENT TRANSIT PASS OR STUDENT~~
9 ~~TRANSIT IDENTIFICATION CARD AND APPEARS TO BE UNDER THE AGE OF 22 YEARS~~
10 ~~MAY RIDE A TRANSIT BUS WITHOUT CHARGE.~~

11 ~~(C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY RESTRICTIONS,~~
12 ~~INCLUDING TEMPORAL RESTRICTIONS, ON THE USE OF A STUDENT TRANSIT PASS.~~

13 ~~7-811.~~

14 ~~(A) THERE IS A STUDENT CARPOOL INCENTIVE PROGRAM.~~

15 ~~(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR:~~

16 ~~(1) SCHOOLS TO ENCOURAGE CARPOOLING; AND~~

17 ~~(2) PARENTS OR GUARDIANS TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS USING~~
18 ~~CARPOOLS.~~

19 ~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AND PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE A~~
20 ~~REGISTRATION PORTAL FOR THE PROGRAM.~~

21 ~~(D) (1) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, A PARENT OR GUARDIAN~~
22 ~~SHALL REGISTER THE CARPOOL ON THE PROGRAM PORTAL, INCLUDING~~
23 ~~INFORMATION ON THE SCHOOL THAT A PARTICIPATING STUDENT ATTENDS.~~

24 ~~(2) A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MAY DESIGNATE ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL~~
25 ~~AS A CARPOOL DRIVER.~~

26 ~~(E) FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM, EACH YEAR THE STATE~~
27 ~~DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL PROVIDE:~~

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1 ~~(1) \$1,000 TO A PARTICIPATING SCHOOL FOR EACH CARPOOL~~
 2 ~~TRANSPORTING FOUR OR MORE STUDENTS FROM THREE OR MORE HOUSEHOLDS;~~
 3 ~~AND~~

4 ~~(2) \$300 TO THE REGISTERED CARPOOL DRIVER FOR EACH~~
 5 ~~REGISTERED STUDENT.~~

6 ~~Article – Transportation~~

7 ~~7-710.~~

8 ~~(A) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER THROUGH~~
 9 ~~2027, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCREASE BUS DRIVER PAY BY \$1 PER HOUR.~~

10 ~~(B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER THROUGH~~
 11 ~~2026, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADD 100 TRANSIT BUSES TO THE BALTIMORE~~
 12 ~~CITY WEEKDAY FLEET.~~

13 ~~7-714.~~

14 ~~A TRANSIT BUS SHALL STOP FOR:~~

15 ~~(1) PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS;~~

16 ~~(2) MOTHERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN; AND~~

17 ~~(3) INDIVIDUALS WHO APPEAR TO BE UNDER THE AGE OF 22 YEARS.~~

(a) There is a Workgroup on Student Carpools.

(b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
House;

(3) one representative of the Governor's Office, appointed by the
Governor;

(4) one representative of the Maryland Transit Administration, designated
by the Transit Administrator;

(5) one representative of the State Department of Education, designated
by the State Superintendent;

(6) one representative of Baltimore City Public Schools, designated by the
Superintendent of Baltimore City Public Schools;

(7) one representative of the Baltimore Teachers Union, designated by the
President of the Baltimore City Teachers Union; and

(8) one representative of the Associated Student Congress of Baltimore
City, designated by the President of the Associated Student Congress of Baltimore
City.

(c) The Workgroup shall elect a chair from among its members.

(d) The Workgroup shall:

(1) study the feasibility of developing and implementing student carpool
incentives;

(2) study the prevalence and accessibility of services that offer a combination of child care and ridesharing; and

(3) make recommendations regarding increasing student carpools in the State.

(g) On or before December 1, 2022, the Workgroup shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.