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**HB750 – Education – Jobs That Require Driving Requirements  
(Drivers Education for Good Jobs Act of 2022)  
Ways and Means Committee  
February 24th, 2022**

**SUPPORT**

AFSCME Council 67 representing counties and cities across Maryland thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 750 – Education- Good Jobs Act of 2022.

This bill requires the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to establish, by December 31, 2022, a statewide CTE pathway for high school students to prepare for a career that requires driving skills and a driver's license and that leads to the student achieving the required license. The CTE Committee must also establish an annual goal for the number of students who obtain the appropriate driver's license before they graduate from high school. The bill also authorizes a local school board to allow an employee of the board, or an employee of a person that contracts with the board, to transport a public-school student in a vehicle if the driver is at least 19 years and 6 months old and has at least three years of experience driving a vehicle.

As school districts across the country returned to in-person learning and COVID continues to have an impact on education in general and school transportation scheduling and logistics in particular, the shortage of school bus drivers has become visible. This is not a new problem but a problem that has been highlighted due to COVID. Drivers have been overworked and underpaid causing more and more men and women to leave the job which is not good for Maryland's student who depend on transportation to school. Legislation such as HB 750 may not be the full answer to the bus driver shortage, but it would be a start to addressing the much-needed solution to a growing issue within our school districts.

In addition to dealing with the short-term issue, Maryland needs to address the long-term issue of school bus driver issues within our school district. Our members have endured for years these shortages, but if we don't come to a solution, we fear more drivers leave the profession.

**We ask for a favorable report on HB 750.**