



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones
Before the Ways and Means Committee**

**In Support of HB753
Primary and Secondary Schools – Bus Driver Wages – Study**

February 24, 2022, 1:00pm

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington, and fellow members of the Ways and Means Committee,

For the record - I am Delegate Dana Jones.

I come before you today to address a critical issue that many of our districts experienced this past fall and continue to manage today.

For years, local school boards have struggled to recruit and retain an adequate number of school bus drivers to ensure our students have reliable transportation to school. This situation was exacerbated earlier this school year when school bus drivers left their jobs for higher-paying positions with companies like Amazon and UPS.

A School Bus driver is not an entry-level position. These drivers are highly skilled individuals that have met all MVA licensing requirements, including a CDL class B (or A) driver's license with appropriate endorsements in addition to completing pre-service instruction which includes classroom and on the road training¹. Becoming a school bus driver requires more qualifications in many cases than similar jobs found in the driver profession such as driving a semi or dump truck, neither of which require the driver to round up students.

HB753 would simply require the Governor's Workforce Development Board to evaluate, study, and identify issues relating to wages paid to school bus drivers and report its findings to each county. This would help school systems make more informed decisions about how to attract and retain these desperately needed employees.

¹ [Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals](#)

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this simple bill that would help identify issues related to the school bus driver shortage.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones