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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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TESTIMONY FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION

CHAIR BARVE
VICE CHAIR STEIN

HOUSE BILL 71 – MOTOR VEHICLES – SCHOOL VEHICLE DRIVERS – MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

SUPPORT

February 1, 2023

Good Afternoon Chair Barve and Vice Chair Stein. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 71 – Motor Vehicles – School Vehicle Drivers – Medical Examinations. HB 71 changes the current State requirements for School Bus Drivers passing medical examinations from annually up to every two years. However, if a jurisdiction chooses to be more restrictive, they retain the ability to do so.

This change will align Maryland State requirements with current Federal requirements, and with those of our neighbors to the north and the south, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia. In doing so, we will become more competitive in maintaining our school bus drivers in counties such as Garrett, Wicomico, and Worcester that all border States with the proposed requirements already in place. This proposed change comes at a time when the MVA Medical Review Board allows the public to submit complaints, which are then prioritized by the MVA in conjunction with the local school board.

In Maryland, amidst the current Statewide worker shortages; particularly in education, we need our school bus drivers more than ever. HB 71 helps alleviate this post-pandemic shortage by removing a barrier to entry for prospective school bus-drivers and by lessening a burden on current ones. For this reason, I am asking for a favorable report on HB 71. Thank you for your time.