



190 West Ostend St., #201
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410.547.1515
Fax: 410.837.5436

Patrick Moran - President

Testimony HB71 School Vehicle Drivers-Medical Examination
Ways and Means Committee
February 2, 2023
Support

AFSCME Maryland representing state, county and municipal and Higher Education employees stand in supports of HB 71 which requires a school vehicle driver to pass an appropriate medical examination before employment and once during each 2 years of employment.

AFSCME representing school bus drivers in Prince George's and Baltimore County are currently required to go through a medical examination before being hired and each year as required by the counties. Requiring bus drivers to go under a medical examination it not only important but necessary to protect the safety for our kids but for our bus drivers as well.

The school years continue to be marked by severe transportation problems across US school districts and the bus driver shortages are getting worse, with some describing the situation as severe. But while school bus driver shortages are more pronounced than in years past, they are hardly new. Prior to the pandemic, staffing shortages were causing our members to do double-work. We must address the understaffing issues concerning school bus driver shortages in Maryland by increasing pay and finding ways to attract drivers to the profession. In Baltimore County, the school board has found ways to assist drivers with paying for the cost of taking the medical examination before hiring and other certification that is needed.

We thank Delegate Sample-Hughes for her bill which we believe is a good commons sense bill aim to protect our kids in Maryland but the drivers who transport them each day.

We urge a Favorable report on HB 71

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

