



Re: HB540 School Bus Stops – Prohibited Locations

Chairperson Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Maryland Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) is an organization comprised of pupil transportation leaders and professionals from each Local Education Agency (LEA). MAPT is where you will find the most knowledgeable individuals involved in transporting Maryland school students on school buses.

MAPT has concerns regarding HB540 School Bus Stops – Prohibited Locations, and opposes the legislation in its current iteration.

HB540 would remove any school bus stop that is located on an undivided multilane highway. In many of these situations throughout Maryland, there exists a dwelling unit with a driveway intersecting directly with the highway. It would be impossible and impractical for a school bus to enter and turn around in individual driveways. Without the existing bus stops, many students would either lose access to school bus transportation or would be required to walk along a busy multilane highway to an alternative bus stop creating a major safety issue.

Please also keep in mind that COMAR 13A.06.07.14 sets up minimum routing requirements for Maryland public school buses. Part C states “On four-lane highways, students shall be picked up and discharged on the side of the roadway where they reside”. With this requirement, no public-school bus should ever be routed where there is a requirement for students to cross a roadway with 4 or more lanes of traffic. However, there may be situations where a school bus is routed for a same side only stop but students make the personal and unauthorized decision to cross a multilane highway to board a school bus or depart the school bus for time convenience. These situations should be addressed with the school administrator of those students and the transportation department for that LEA.

Thank you for your time in reading the concerns from pupil transportation professionals regarding HB540 and we ask for an Unfavorable Report from the committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the topic of seat belts or any school bus related item. You can reach me at (301) 475 4256 ext 34132 or by email at jkthompson@smcps.org.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Thompson
President

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