

JACK BAILEY
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Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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January 31, 2024

Senate Bill 63 – Motor Vehicles - School Vehicle Drivers - Medical Examinations

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 63. This bill will change the current State requirement for school bus drivers to pass medical examinations from annually up to every two years, with individual school systems retaining the ability to require these examinations more frequently.

As I know we are all aware, one of the most significant problems our local school systems face today is a shortage of qualified bus drivers. Under existing regulations, prospective drivers must undergo a medical examination prior to employment and annually thereafter. This requirement is more stringent than federal requirements, which allow for medical examinations to be valid for up to 24 months. This legislation would make Maryland's state requirements consistent with current federal requirements, as well as those in neighboring states, including Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia.

Importantly, this bill does not mandate local school systems change current practices for certifying bus drivers. It instead allows for increased flexibility that will give local school systems a larger pool of prospective bus drivers to choose from to alleviate current driver shortages without sacrificing student safety.

Senate Bill 63 identical to House Bill 71 as passed unanimously by this Committee last session. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 63. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey