



CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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County Administrator

March 6, 2025

Re: Support for HB 1359 Charles County – Student Bus Transportation Providers – Provider Displacement

Dear Chairman Atterbeary, Vice Chairwoman Wilkins and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Charles County Board of County Commissioners, I write to express our support for passage of House Bill 1359, which requires the Charles County Board of Education to provide certain notice and hold a public hearing before taking any action that results in the displacement of a person that provides student bus transportation.

House Bill 1359 seeks to provide the private bus transportation companies for the Charles County Public Schools with no less than ten (10) years advance notice of intent to no longer utilize their services as determined by the Charles County Board of Education, with certain exceptions. The intent is to ensure the bus contractors may financially plan for such termination of their services with the school system. School buses are typically financed for five to six years, and secured by the residences or other property of the individual bus company owners. Seventeen out of the twenty-four companies are small, minority and women-owned businesses, who require notice in order to determine an appropriate financial exit strategy for both the contractors and over 450 employees of the contractors. Additionally, members of the public would have the ability to address the Charles County Board of Education on the topic of terminating the bus contracts before such action is taken.

In an effort to mitigate financial risk for the bus contractors, and ensure the public may speak to potential changes to how their children are transported to and from school, we are seeking approval of HB 1359 Charles County – Student Bus Transportation Providers – Provider Displacement. We urge a favorable committee report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., consisting of stylized initials "RBC" followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

County Commissioners of Charles County

cc: Charles County Delegation