

BILL: House Bill 1359
TITLE: Charles County – Student Bus Transportation Providers –
Provider Displacement
HEARING DATE: March 6, 2025
POSITION: UNFAVORABLE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Brian Dulay, Government Relations Director (bdulay@mabe.org)

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all the state’s local boards of education, opposes House Bill 1359, Charles County – Student Bus Transportation Providers – Provider Displacement.

The 24 school districts in Maryland each depend upon the ability to make sound, fiscal decisions based upon local needs. Transportation expenses have increased considerably this decade, and local school districts are best positioned to address budget concerns and to determine the necessary balance between system-operated vehicles and private provider means of transportation.

The needs and uses of public school transportation systems are dynamic, and local boards of education must be able to adequately address and finance these ranges in their annual budgets. This legislation would mandate contractual renewal guidelines and potentially diminish cost-savings by eliminating a competitive bidding process. Though the proposed guidelines under the design of this bill would apply to only one county, the principle of striking such a poor balance between private providers and local school district services is deeply concerning in the context of similar settings and conditions statewide.

For these reasons, MABE respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT for House Bill 1359**.