



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary and Members  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: FAVORABLE– HB 1359 - Charles County – Student Bus Transportation Providers – Provider Displacement**

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports House Bill 1359. MSBCA has supported our fellow school bus contractors in the past with various legislation including in 2023 with SB 491 Taskforce Legislation resulting in best practices from other county contractor bus systems and recommendations for a multi-year contract, increased wages, and an 8-hour workday for Charles County bus drivers and attendants, a workforce of more than 400 local workers. But there is still work to be done.

This bill specifically addresses notice of “displacement” for the 24 small student transportation businesses, mostly women and minority owned, that have provided student transportation to Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) for more than 100 years and ensuring “fair notification—at least 10 years—before termination or contract changes that result in the displacement of a Contractor”. This gives all Bus Contractors, who personally buy and mortgage their buses, time to plan and maintain security for their more than 400 employees. This ten-year notice requested appears consistent with neighboring counties that provide School Bus Contracts for up to 10 to 12 years, such as Calvert County.

This is not about contracts or mandating the duration of contracts but about creating a secure operating environment for Contractors, their employees, their families and the school system.

The proposed legislation aims to establish a fair and balanced partnership between the school system and 24 local bus contractors, benefiting both sides. The Contractors have observed the significant increase in the number of school bus purchases by the CCPS school system and this observation alone has raised concern among the Contractors and their employees, that is the impetus and reasoning for this legislation. The SB 727 Displacement bill simply requires fair and sufficient notice to the Contractors and to the public. Such notice to small local businesses that have diligently served the County is a matter of fairness and equity.

The proposed legislation is crucial for ensuring stability and long-term planning not only for the School Bus Contractors but also for the County’s school system, providing mutual benefits and a stronger foundation for collaboration. We know that the Charles County School Bus Contractors remain committed to working together, and we believe this legislation would enhance that partnership by bringing fairness, transparency, and security to all parties involved.

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***MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 19 of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3,500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren over 53 million miles across the State annually.***

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Steve Nelson*

Steve Nelson  
President

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