



February 2, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman and Members
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: FAVORABLE - HB 79 - Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports HB 79 - Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 20 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. MSBCA members own and operate over 3,600, or 50% of the school buses transporting school children across the great State of Maryland. MSBCA contracted school buses routes travel over 58 million miles each year while remaining fully committed to the safety of the students we transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

As you well know, we are facing major challenges transitioning to electric (EV) school buses as mandated by the Climate Solutions of 2022. Some of those challenges include performance concerns for long rural routes, route battery life and charging in cold weather, battery replacement costs and environmental disposal. Not to mention the unprepared electric grid infrastructure, the increasing cost of electricity but most importantly the cost of replacing each school bus. To meet the current mandate, it is projected that 500-600 EV school buses will need to be purchased each year. I have enclosed two (2) 2026 quotes from EV school bus manufacturers confirming the cost of purchasing these buses. A current eco-friendly diesel bus averages \$145,000-\$160,000. A cleaner burning propane school bus is estimated at \$156,000. Where an EV school bus ranges from \$399,000-\$420,000. This is more than double.

Maryland school districts that enter into service agreements with MSBCA members do so based on a formula that includes the cost of the vehicle, driver salary, maintenance, fuel, and operating fees. While each school district agreement varies, the cost of converting to new EV school bus is passed on to the individual school districts. In addition, at this time we do not know fully what the infrastructure costs will be to install the higher tiered electrical needed to reach each bus operator's locations, nor the cost of this electricity.

MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 20 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions to own and operate over 3600 contracted school buses that transport school children across the State.

On January 22, 2025, Secretary of the Environment, Serena McIlwain noted in her briefing to this committee needs to postpone the EV mandates for transit vehicles to 2032. Even stating "school systems do not have that kind of money". She is correct, we don't.

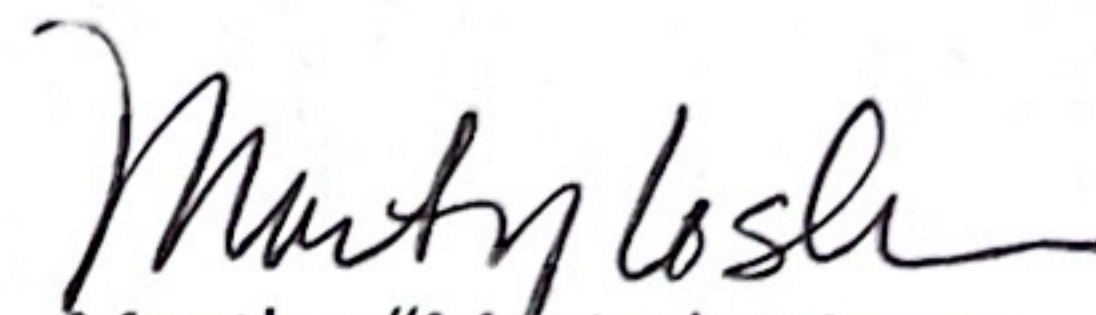
MSBCA asks that you consider the merits of policy implementations are not "economically practicable". MSBCA ask for a favorable report of HB 79 related to school buses and our current state budget challenges.

Again, MSBCA looks forward to working with all our legislators to make Maryland the safest and most efficient state in the country for all our children.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson


Steve Nelson
President



Martha "Marty" Lostrom
Executive Director

Maryland School Bus Contractors Association
29 Francis Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
202-386-3859

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 Outlook

Bus Pricing 64 Passenger

From Gordon Dhue <gdhue@igburton.com>

Date Sun 2/1/2026 1:40 PM

To busboss.nelson@gmail.com <busboss.nelson@gmail.com>

Cc Marty Lostrom <mlostrom@mdschoolbus.org>

Good Afternoon Mr. Nelson,

The pricing for MD buses that are 64 passengers are as follows.

Diesel- \$145,945

Propane- \$156,233

EV- \$399,309

These are prices that do not include A/C. To add A/C the cost is \$12,000 for ICE units and \$20,000 for the EV unit.

If you want to add 3pt belts, the price increase is 13,900.00.

These numbers do not include tax, tag, or title fees.

Thank You

Gordon Dhue

Bus Sales

i.g. Burton Bus & Truck Center

Mobile: 410-443-6058

gdhue@igburton.com

www.igburtonbuscenter.com



i.g. Burton

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From: Mike Tine
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 10:08 PM
To: Steve Nelson - Nelson Bus Company (nelsonbuscompany@verizon.net)
<nelsonbuscompany@verizon.net>
Subject: Current Pricing (General Estimates)

Good evening Steve,

Sorry for the late email but I wanted to get you this information before I got tied up with inspections and tours tomorrow.

The following estimates reflect current pricing and do not include impending increases associated with 2027 EPA emissions standards or the cost of AC.

- 64 passenger diesel school bus \$160,000 +/-
- 64 passenger electric school bus \$420,000 +/-

- Addition of 3 point lap/shoulder belts \$ 10,000.00 +/-

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mike

