

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1446 – Commercial Driver's Instructional Permits – School Vehicles – Knowledge Test***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1446 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1446 would authorize an individual who is employed by a County School Board to administer the knowledge test for a commercial driver's license instructional permit for the School Bus (S) endorsement. These individuals would have to be employed by the Board to teach classroom instruction related to the S endorsement for commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants seeking that endorsement.

Currently, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) administers the knowledge test for S endorsement applicants. A Passenger (P) endorsement also has a knowledge test component required before a CLP can be issued. Applicants must obtain a Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) with an S endorsement and hold it for a minimum of 14 days, though they can retain the CLP for up to one year for extended training should it be needed. However, it is also required that a driver of a bus designed to transport 16 or more persons with a gross vehicle weight range of 26,001 pounds or more must also have a CDL with a P endorsement. Similarly, a P endorsement requires a knowledge test before a CLP can be issued. Once the minimum holding period is met, an applicant can take the skills test with successful completion resulting in the issuance of a CDL with the S and P endorsements, respectively.

While HB 1446 would allow the S endorsement knowledge test to be administered by school employees, it does not permit the P endorsement knowledge test which would typically be required for applicants pursuing a CDL S endorsement, nor does it negate the requirement that an applicant visit the MVA after passing a knowledge test to obtain the physical CLP.

The MVA is open to collaborating with the sponsor and the Committee to find the best way to address these concerns. There may be other alternative testing options such as making MVA staff available to perform tests at a remote location.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the committee consider this information during its deliberation of House Bill 1446.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer  
Administrator  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090