



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

HB 1019

School Bus Transition – Propane-Powered School Buses – Grant Program, Fund, and Purchase

Position: Oppose
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: February 26, 2026
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** HB1019.

Bill Summary

House Bill 1019 would modify the “Zero-Emission Vehicle School Buses” provisions of the Environment Article (§§2-1501 through 2-1505) to include propane-powered school buses as a purchase option under these sections of the Environment Article.

Position Rationale

HB 1019 would impede the State’s progress in meeting our climate goals. The transportation sector is responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) generated in Maryland. To achieve the Climate Solutions Now Act’s (CSNA) goal of a 60% reduction in GHG emissions from 2006 levels by 2031 and ensure clean air, substantial reductions from the transportation sector are required. The electrification of this sector, including school buses, is one of the most effective strategies for achieving these reductions.

While propane school buses create less pollution than diesel school buses, they are not as beneficial as electric school buses. Electric buses provide zero tailpipe emissions and become cleaner as the energy grid decarbonizes, whereas propane, a fossil fuel, remains a source of ongoing emissions. Widescale adoption of propane buses would lock in long-term fossil fuel use and associated pollution as school districts would invest in propane vehicles and fueling infrastructure.

The CSNA mandates that school buses purchased after 2025 must be zero emissions school buses. The Zero-Emission Vehicle School Bus Transition Grant Program was established to facilitate this transition to electric school buses. Given the limited financial resources available for GHG reductions, MDE must ensure available funding promotes the technology that offers the maximum achievable reductions.

Accordingly, MDE asks for an **UNFAVORABLE** report for HB 1019.

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