



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Acting County Administrator

March 12, 2026

Bill: House Bill 1493 Charles County - Student Bus Transportation Providers - Provider Displacement
Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION
Committee: House Ways and Means

Dear Chairwoman Wilkins, Vice Chairwoman Feldmark and Members:

On behalf of the County Commissioners for Charles County, this letter is to provide information for House Bill 1493, that concerns notice of displacement of school bus transportation providers in Charles County, Maryland. It aims to protect private contractors who currently provide school bus transportation for the Charles County Board of Education from being replaced by the school system without notice.

The Board of County Commissioners provided an opportunity for Charles County Public Schools and representatives of the private school bus contractors to discuss the bill at their recent meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. A recording of that meeting may be found at <https://reflect-charlescountymd.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/1646?site=1> at the 2 hour and 50 minute mark. After a robust conversation, it was determined that bus contractors would be satisfied with notice six (6) years prior to displacement. Additionally, Ms. Sue Greer, Esq., the contractors' representative, stated that the "buyout" language found at 7-811(C)(2)(I) was not needed.

Despite these concessions on behalf of the contractors, CCPS remains vehemently opposed, and the Board of Commissioners believes there are legitimate challenges with the bill as presented. While HB 1493 appears intended to protect existing student bus transportation providers in Charles County, its provisions would impose constraints on the Board of Education that could ultimately hinder the school system's ability to operate efficient and responsive transportation services.

The Board of Commissioners sincerely appreciates the contractors' desire to have notice of displacement by the Board of Education. We strongly encourage both parties to continue to negotiate in good faith for a longer-term contract that meets the needs of the school system, the private contractors and most importantly, the school aged children of Charles County who need and deserve safe and predictable transportation to and from school.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President
County Commissioners of Charles County