



January 23, 2026

The Honorable Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: HB 0319

Dear Delegate Wilkins and Committee Members:

The Maryland Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT), representing Maryland's twenty-four public school system pupil transportation professionals, fully supports HB 0319 for the repeal of the termination date related to alternative school vehicles as outlined in Maryland Department of Education COMAR 13A.06.07.12 General Standards.

Alternative vehicles, subject to the requirements of COMAR 13A.06.07.12, have provided a much-needed alternative means of transport for special circumstances whereby the traditional school bus (Type I or II) would not be the best option for student transportation when considering student ride time, lack of school bus resources, logistical concerns, and cost. Alternative vehicles have afforded school systems with a better option in transporting certain student populations; specific examples include but are not limited to transportation for students in transition (homeless) and special needs students attending non-public and other public schools where distance, time on the bus, and behavioral issues pose major concerns for successful transport on a school bus.

The MAPT continues to fully endorse the use of school buses as the primary source of pupil transportation. Alternative vehicles have provided school systems with a means to transport small numbers of students where school bus service is not feasible and, in some instances, not possible. We urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 0319 to repeal the sunset provision associated with the use of alternative vehicles for public school transportation.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Hardesty, MAPT President