

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Support of
House Bill 319 – County Boards of Education – Student Transportation
Sunset Repeal**

February 11, 2026

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports House Bill 319 and was one of the first school districts to request the use of the alternative school vehicles. HB 319 provides needed stability by allowing Baltimore City Public Schools to continue utilizing Alternative School Vehicles (ASVs) as part of a comprehensive transportation strategy. Repealing the sunset provision supports local decision-making and enables long-term planning that prioritizes student access, safety, and equity.

City Schools serves a large, diverse student population with a wide range of educational programs and transportation needs. ASVs are an essential tool in ensuring that students can reliably access alternative education programs, specialized instructional settings, and services that are not always efficiently served by traditional yellow school bus routes.

In a dense urban environment like Baltimore City, flexibility in student transportation is critical. ASVs allow the district to respond quickly to changing enrollment patterns, program locations, and individual student needs while maintaining safety standards and operational oversight. They also help reduce transportation delays, manage costs, and limit disruptions for students whose educational success depends on consistent attendance.

Eliminating the option to use Alternative School Vehicles would significantly strain Baltimore City Public Schools' transportation system and could result in increased costs, longer ride times, and reduced access to critical educational programs for some of the city's most vulnerable students.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports House Bill 319 and urges a favorable report.

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