

SENATE BILL 901

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4lr2956
CF HB 1034

By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Kent County and Queen Anne's County – School Buses – Length of Operation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a school bus may be operated in Kent
4 County and Queen Anne's County; and generally relating to school bus
5 operations in Kent County and Queen Anne's County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Education
8 Section 7–804
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Education**

14 7–804.

15 (a) In this section, “school vehicle” has the meaning stated in § 11–154 of the
16 Transportation Article.

17 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection,
18 unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards, a
19 school vehicle may be operated for 12 years.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2) (i) In Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, **KENT,**
2 **QUEEN ANNE’S,** St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties,
3 unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards, a
4 school vehicle may be operated for 15 years.

5 (ii) A school vehicle operating under subparagraph (i) of this
6 paragraph shall be maintained as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

7 (3) Any school vehicle in operation or accepted before July 1, 2004, or
8 under contract to be purchased before July 1, 2004, that meets the specifications of the
9 Department and of the Motor Vehicle Administration for transit style school vehicles
10 may be operated for 15 years.

11 (c) Notwithstanding the 12–year limitation in subsection (b)(1) of this
12 section, a school vehicle may be operated for additional years if:

13 (1) The school vehicle is maintained under a preventive maintenance
14 plan approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Automotive Safety
15 Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that includes an inspection at
16 the end of the 12th year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle
17 Administration each year thereafter;

18 (2) Any structural repairs to the school vehicle necessitated by
19 accident, metal fatigue, or any other cause are certified by an independent expert
20 approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration to meet or exceed the manufacturer’s
21 original manufacturing standards;

22 (3) The school vehicle is equipped with:

23 (i) The body originally placed on the chassis by the
24 manufacturer;

25 (ii) An 8 light warning system;

26 (iii) A left side stop arm;

27 (iv) A fire–retardant driver’s seat;

28 (v) Fire–retardant barriers in the case of a school vehicle with a
29 front engine; and

30 (vi) A fire–retardant rear seating area in the case of a school
31 vehicle with a rear engine; and

32 (4) The State Superintendent grants approval.

1 (d) If a school vehicle passes an inspection that is required under subsection
2 (c)(1) of this section:

3 (1) The inspection shall be valid in the county in which the inspection
4 was completed; and

5 (2) If ownership of the school vehicle is transferred to a person who
6 operates the school vehicle in a county in which school vehicles are authorized under
7 subsection (b)(2) of this section to be operated for 15 years, the inspection shall be
8 valid in that county for the length of time that the inspection would have been valid in
9 the county where the inspection was completed.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 2014.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.