

# HOUSE BILL 87

R5  
HB 1226/20 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

11r0587  
CF SB 253

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By: **Delegates D. Jones, Bagnall, Bartlett, Feldmark, and Henson**

Requested: July 7, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 8, 2021

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Vehicle Laws – School Bus Safety – Occupant Capacity**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a school bus be routed with the intent that the number  
4 of pupils on the bus does not exceed the manufacturer's rated seating capacity for  
5 the bus; providing for certain emergency or temporary situations; and generally  
6 relating to school bus safety.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 21–1118(a) and (b)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 21–1118(c)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2020 Replacement Volume)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### 19 **Article – Transportation**

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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 21-1118.

2 (a) The driver of a school bus:

3 (1) Is responsible for its operation; and

4 (2) May not drive it into any roadway without first stopping and  
5 determining that there is no danger from any other vehicle.

6 (b) The person responsible for any pupils on a school bus is:

7 (1) The teacher on the bus; or

8 (2) If a teacher is not present, the driver.

9 (c) **(1) A SCHOOL BUS SHALL BE ROUTED WITH THE INTENT THAT THE**  
10 **NUMBER OF PUPILS ON THE BUS DOES NOT EXCEED THE MANUFACTURER'S RATED**  
11 **SEATING CAPACITY FOR THE BUS.**

12 **(2) IF AN EMERGENCY OR OTHER TEMPORARY SITUATION CAUSES**  
13 **THE NUMBER OF PUPILS ON A SCHOOL BUS TO EXCEED THE SEATING CAPACITY OF**  
14 **THE BUS, THE SITUATION SHALL BE CORRECTED WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF**  
15 **TIME.**

16 **(3) A person responsible for pupils on a school bus may not permit the**  
17 **number of standing pupils to exceed one pupil for each part of the aisle that is bounded on**  
18 **both sides by forward facing seats.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
20 1, 2021.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.