



February 1, 2022

The Honorable Kumar Barve and Members
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support – HB 283 – Vehicle Laws – School Bus Safety – Occupant Capacity

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports HB 283 – Vehicle Laws – School Bus Safety – Occupant Capacity. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 18 of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State. MSBCA remains committed to the safety of the students they transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

There are 450,000 public school buses operating in the U.S., transporting 23.5 million minor students 4.3 billion miles annually. School buses are nearly 7 times safer in protecting passengers from motor vehicle related fatalities than other passenger vehicles. This is thanks to the school bus’ tank-like exterior as well as the use of compartmentalization, which provides for passive protection for unbelted passengers. Passengers remain in compartments between the high backed, padded bus seats and, in the event of an accident, the seat backs absorb passenger crash energy. MSBCA supports any effort to ensure all students being transported on school buses are seated properly and facing forward, which is the only way to ensure “compartmentalization” protection in the event of a crash.

Once again, MSBCA supports HB 283 and asks for a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to our State.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson, President
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410.268.3099

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