



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1360

School Bus Transition – Propane-Powered School Buses – Grant Program, Fund, and Purchase

Date: March 12, 2024

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**

From: Gussie Maguire
MD Staff Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** HB 1360 which expands the existing Zero-Emission School Bus funding and grants programs to include propane-powered vehicles.

Propane is a fossil fuel which, when burned for energy, creates greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, just like diesel and gasoline. This bill opens the door for funds to be diverted away from zero-emissions school buses, straight back into investment in fossil fuel-burning vehicles that exacerbate climate change and human health problems.

Including propane-powered vehicles in the Zero-Emission School Bus Transition Grant Program runs counter to the intent of the program: to help schools move away from buses that emit fumes harmful to human health and the environment. Students should not be forced to continue to breathe polluted air while on their way to and from school, no matter if the source is diesel, gasoline, or propane fuel.

Reinvesting in fossil fuel fleets would also push the state further behind in its climate goals. The December 2023 Climate Pathway Report aims for a 49% reduction in emissions from the transportation sector by 2031, but replacing a full-size diesel school bus with a propane-powered school bus of the same type would only achieve a 6% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions¹. A fossil fuel is a fossil fuel: replacing diesel school buses with propane ones will not meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this sector.

CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on HB 1360.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ <https://propane.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/20890-GTI-GHG-Emissions-Analysis-Final-Report.pdf>

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