



Re: HB 196 School Buses - Seat Belts

Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Maryland Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) is an organization that is composed of pupil transportation leaders from each Local Education Agency (LEA). MAPT is where you will find the most knowledgeable professionals involved in transporting Maryland public school students.

MAPT had concerns with the original iteration of HB196 Motor Vehicles - School Buses - Seat Belts. Those concerns regarded the retrofitting of older school buses, which is not feasible, and more importantly concerns that the bill in its original iteration placed an unrealistic expectation on school bus drivers. It is MAPT's understanding that the amendments made to HB196 have addressed these concerns. The amendments to HB196 remove the requirement for retrofitting of older school buses and include language to protect school bus drivers similar to laws established in other states who require seat belts on school buses. Based on these changes, MAPT now requests a favorable report with amendments for HB196.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the topic of seat belts on school buses or any school bus related item. You can reach me at (301) 475 4256 ext 34132 or by email at jkthompson@smcps.org.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Thompson
President

ALLEGANY – ANNE ARUNDEL – BALTIMORE CITY – BALTIMORE COUNTY – CALVERT – CAROLINE – CARROLL – CECIL – CHARLES – DORCHESTER – FREDERICK – GARRETT – HARFORD – HOWARD – KENT – MONTGOMERY – PRINCE GEORGE'S – QUEEN ANNE'S – ST. MARY'S – SOMERSET – TALBOT – WASHINGTON – WICOMICO – WORCESTER