

HOUSE BILL 1226

R5

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By: **Delegates Cain, Henson, Bagnall, Bartlett, C. Branch, Feldmark, Guyton, Howard, Mosby, Palakovich Carr, Rogers, Rose, Smith, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 12, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 21–1118(a) and (b)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 21–1118(c)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

18 ~~BY adding to~~

19 ~~Article – Transportation~~

20 ~~Section 21–1118(e)~~

21 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

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.



~~(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)~~

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

Article – Transportation

21–1118.

(a) The driver of a school bus:

(1) Is responsible for its operation; and

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

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

(1) The teacher on the bus; or

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

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

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

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

~~**(c) THE NUMBER OF PUPILS ON A SCHOOL BUS MAY NOT EXCEED THE SEATING CAPACITY OF THE SCHOOL BUS.**~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.