

SENATE BILL 1044

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5lr3622

By: **Senator Attar**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2025

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Education – Student Transportation – Alternative School**
3 **Vehicles**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to adopt regulations concerning
5 the use of alternative school vehicles; and generally relating to student
6 transportation and the State Board of Education.

7 BY adding to
8 Article – Education
9 Section 7–811
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Education**

15 **7–811.**

16 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
17 **INDICATED.**

18 **(2) “ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL VEHICLE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN**
19 **COMAR 13A.06.07.01.**

20 **(3) “MULTIFUNCTION SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUS” HAS THE MEANING**
21 **STATED IN COMAR 13A.06.07.01.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(4) "TYPE I SCHOOL VEHICLE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 11-173 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

(5) "TYPE II SCHOOL VEHICLE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 11-174 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

(B) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ALLOW THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL:

(1) (I) IF A COUNTY BOARD DETERMINES THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO OWN, OPERATE, OR CONTRACT THE USE OF AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL VEHICLE TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL; OR

(II) IF THE VEHICLE IS:

1. A TAXICAB;

2. A COMMERCIAL MOTOR COACH; OR

3. OPERATED BY A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK SERVICES, AS DEFINED IN § 10-101 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE; AND

(2) REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE VEHICLE:

(I) TRANSPORTS MORE THAN ONE STUDENT;

(II) HAS AN AUDIBLE BACK-UP WARNING ALARM INSTALLED BEHIND THE REAR AXLE;

(III) HAS A FIRST AID KIT;

(IV) HAS A FLUID CLEANUP KIT;

(V) HAS A FIRE EXTINGUISHER; OR

(VI) HAS A SEAT BELT CUTTER THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE DRIVER.

(C) (1) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL REQUIRE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL VEHICLES ALLOWED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION AND MULTIFUNCTION SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUSES TO:

1 **(I) UNDERGO TWO INSPECTIONS EACH SCHOOL YEAR THAT**
2 **ARE MORE THAN 120 DAYS APART; AND**

3 **(II) BE INSPECTED BY TECHNICIANS CERTIFIED BY THE**
4 **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EXCELLENCE.**

5 **(2) RECORDS OF EACH INSPECTION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH**
6 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE MAINTAINED BY:**

7 **(I) THE CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER; OR**

8 **(II) IF A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OWNS THE ALTERNATIVE**
9 **SCHOOL VEHICLE OR MULTIFUNCTION SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUS, THE**
10 **TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
12 1, 2025.