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BILL: House Bill 1255
TITLE: School Bus Purchasing - Zero-Emission Vehicle - Requirement
DATE: March 7, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 1255 because it would impose a costly mandate on all school systems by requiring each school bus purchased after October 1, 2022 to be a zero-emission vehicle.

Local boards of education place a very high priority on student transportation, including the substantial investment in school buses and drivers and maintenance staff. School systems also devote considerable resources to ensuring high standards for student safety relating to student transportation. Staff training is continuously ongoing whether for school system employed school bus drivers or drivers employed by school bus contractors. The high quality of student safety that these investments provide is MABE's top priority.

Therefore, MABE is concerned with the serious potential for shifting a major portion of current student transportation budgets, in addition to newly imposed costs, arising from this bill proposed mandate for zero emission school buses.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1255.