

**BILL:** Senate Bill 11  
**TITLE:** Motor Vehicles - Establishment of School Zones  
**DATE:** March 22, 2023  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 11 and the unreasonably strict limitations on the establishment of school zones. MABE firmly believes that the restrictions on the default radius of school zones at 500 feet from the school property, and the requirement to obtain a traffic engineering study to move beyond this radius, will result in a lower level of safety for students and the communities in which schools are located.

MABE places a high priority on student safety, especially in the daily transportation to and from school of nearly 900,000 students each school day. The arrival and departure of many of these students is within proximity of schools in which bus services are not provided. For these students, local school systems have adopted policies and procedures to ensure that safe routes to and from school are available.

Generally, getting students to and from school safely is a partnership between the home and the school. Each local school system provides parents with educational information and resources on pedestrian and bus safety in addition to the training and resources provided to students. Parents are primarily responsible for identifying the appropriate walk route from home to school or the bus stop, with school systems providing information and recommendations to assist them in identifying an appropriate walking route for their children.

MABE recognizes that, as amended, Senate Bill 11 generally reflects current practice. However, the association remains concerned about the impact of this legislation on existing and longstanding school zones which may not meet the strict definitions proposed to be codified in this bill. Specifically, MABE opposes the mandating of traffic engineering studies to confirm the compliance of all existing school zones with these standards.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 11.