

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973.

Approved April 26, 1973.

CHAPTER 128

(House Bill 103)

AN ACT to add new Section 12-417 to Article 66 1/2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "Equipment of Vehicles," subheading "Other Equipment," to follow immediately after Section 12-416 thereof, to require that after a certain date, certain school bus seats shall conform to certain safety [[standards]] rules, regulations and specifications as to crash pads, and generally relating thereto.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 12-417 be and it is hereby added to Article 66 1/2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "Equipment of Vehicles," subheading "Other Equipment," to follow immediately after Section 12-416 thereof, and to read as follows:

12-417.

[[A]] EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 1973, ALL [[NEW]] SCHOOL BUSES [[SOLD]] OPERATING IN MARYLAND AND [[ALL EXISTING SCHOOL BUSES]] USED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN TO AND FROM PUBLIC OR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH SEAT BACK CRASH PADS CONFORMING TO THE [[SPECIFICATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION.]] RULES, REGULATIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION.

[[B]] ALL EXPOSED TOP RAILS OF SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER SEATS, INCLUDING FIBER-GLASS AND PLASTIC TYPE, SHALL BE PADDED WITH AN ENERGY ABSORPTION MATERIAL SUFFICIENT TO MINIMIZE INJURY PRODUCING IMPACT FORCES.]]

[[C]] STANCHIONS AND GUARD RAILS SHALL BE PADDED WITH AN ENERGY ABSORBING MATERIAL DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE INJURY-PRODUCING IMPACT FORCES. PADDING ON STANCHIONS SHALL EXTEND TO WITHIN 3 INCHES OF BUS CEILING AND TO WITHIN 3 INCHES OF BUS FLOOR. PADDING ON EACH GUARD RAIL SHALL EXTEND FROM BUS WALL TO ITS FARTHEST SUPPORT. IF FOAM RUBBER IS USED AS THE PADDING AGENT, IT SHALL BE OF A CLOSE CELL COMPOSITION AND COVERED SO THAT THERE ARE NO EXPOSED AREAS OF FOAM.]]

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