

(2) THE INCREASE IN THE PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION CATEGORY OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE BALTIMORE AREA DURING THE SECOND FISCAL YEAR BEFORE THE FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH THE STATE AID UNDER THIS SECTION IS MADE.

(C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OF EACH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

[7-602.

(a) This section applies only to the following counties:

(1) Calvert;

(2) Caroline;

(3) Charles, except that this county may not own more than four buses, excluding any vehicle primarily used to transport handicapped students or athletic teams;

(4) Dorchester;

(5) Queen Anne's;

(6) St. Mary's;

(7) Talbot; and

(8) Worcester.

(b) (1) Each county board shall contract with independent contractors for the buses and operators it needs to transport students and teachers.

(2) Each county may not own more than ten buses.

(3) The use of independent contractors by these counties does not affect the amount of State funds provided for school bus transportation.]

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~~(a) -- A school bus may be used to transport any student who lives within the mileage limit if~~

~~(1) -- The school bus is not filled to capacity,~~

~~(2) -- No additional bus stop is added to the route to transport the student, and~~

~~(3) -- The transportation officer or his designee has identified a specific existing hardship that would~~