

## CHAPTER 420

(House Bill 358)

AN ACT concerning

**Education Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties - School Buses - Length of Operation**

FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a school bus may be operated *in certain counties*; ~~repealing the authority to operate a school bus longer than a certain number of years providing for the termination of this Act~~; and generally relating to the length of time a school bus may be operated *in certain counties*.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Education

Section 7-804

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

**Article - Education**

7-804.

~~{(a)}~~ (1) ~~Unless~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, UNLESS it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards, a conventional school bus may be operated for ~~{12}~~ 15 years.

(2) IN SOMERSET, WICOMICO, AND WORCESTER COUNTIES, UNLESS IT FAILS TO MEET THE APPLICABLE SCHOOL BUS AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS, A CONVENTIONAL SCHOOL BUS MAY BE OPERATED FOR 15 YEARS.

{(b)} Notwithstanding the 12-year limitation in subsection ~~(a)~~ (A)(1) of this section, a conventional school bus may be operated for additional years if:

(1) The bus is maintained under a preventive maintenance plan approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that includes an inspection at the end of the 12th year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle Administration each year thereafter;

(2) Any structural repairs to the bus necessitated by accident, metal fatigue, or any other cause are certified by an independent expert approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration to meet or exceed the manufacturer's original manufacturing standards;

(3) The bus is equipped with: