

Article - Education

[7-605.

(a) Unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards, a conventional school bus may be operated for 12 years. The State Superintendent may grant an extension of the 12-year limit in an emergency situation.

(b) The basic annual allotment in effect in the tenth year shall be continued in the eleventh and twelfth years of a bus's operation as a part of the payment formula.]

7-605.

(A) UNLESS IT FAILS TO MEET THE APPLICABLE SCHOOL BUS AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS, A CONVENTIONAL SCHOOL BUS MAY BE OPERATED FOR 12 YEARS.

(B) NOTWITHSTANDING THE 12-YEAR LIMITATION IN SUBSECTION (A) 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 MARYLAND 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:

(I) THE BODY ORIGINALLY PLACED ON THE BUS CHASSIS BY THE MANUFACTURER;

(II) AN 8 LIGHT WARNING SYSTEM;

(III) A LEFT SIDE STOP ARM;

(IV) A FIRE-RETARDANT DRIVER'S SEAT;

(V) FIRE-RETARDANT BARRIERS IN THE CASE OF A BUS WITH A FRONT ENGINE;

(VI) A FIRE-RETARDANT REAR SEATING AREA IN THE CASE OF A BUS WITH A REAR ENGINE; AND

(4) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT GRANTS APPROVAL.