

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
LEGISLATIVE SESSION DAY 2021-18**

BILL NO. 2021-14

Title of Bill: Public Schools – Bus Safety - Cameras

Synopsis: An Act to amend the Code of Cecil County, Chapter 101 Schools, to add Section 101-3 School Bus Safety Cameras in order to authorize the use of school bus monitoring cameras on school buses in Cecil County; to authorize certain enforcement and to provide that certain violations are a civil penalty; to provide for the use of fines; and generally relating to enforcement of traffic laws in Cecil County.

Introduced by: Council President on behalf of the Cecil County Public Schools

Introduced and ordered posted on: September 21, 2021

Public hearing scheduled on: October 19, 2021 at: 7:00 p.m.

Scheduled for consideration: November 2, 2021

By: _____
Council Manager

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of time and place of public hearing and title of Bill having been posted by (date) at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton and having been published according to the Charter on (dates), a public hearing was held on (date) and concluded on (date).

By: _____
Council Manager

Explanation: CAPITAL LETTERS INDICATE LANGUAGE ADDED TO EXISTING DOCUMENT
~~Strike through~~ indicates language deleted from existing document
Underlining indicates language added to document by amendment.
~~Double Strike through~~ indicates language stricken from document by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 21, Subtitle 7, Section 21-706,
2 Transportation Article, if a school vehicle has stopped on a roadway and is operating the alternately
3 flashing red lights, the driver of any other vehicle meeting or overtaking the school vehicle shall stop; at
4 least 20 feet from the rear of the school vehicle if approaching from the rear; or at least 20 feet from
5 the front of the school vehicle if approaching from the front; and

6 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 21, Subtitle 7, Section 21-706,
7 Transportation Article, if a school vehicle has stopped on a roadway and is operating the alternately
8 flashing red lights, the driver of any other vehicle meeting or overtaking the school vehicle may not
9 proceed until the school vehicle resumes motion or the alternately flashing red lights are deactivated;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 22, Subtitle 2, Section 22-228,
12 Transportation Article, every school vehicle driver shall put in operation alternately flashing amber lights
13 not less than 100 feet before bringing the school vehicle to a full stop for the purpose of receiving or
14 discharging passengers, and place into operation the alternately flashing red lights upon stopping; and

15 **WHEREAS**, there has been an increase in drivers traveling in unsafe manners and ignoring buses
16 that are stopped and operating the alternately flashing red lights; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the use of external cameras on school buses have been effective at deterring drivers
18 of passing stopped school buses displaying the alternately flashing red lights; and

19 **WHEREAS**, all Maryland motorists on both sides of the road must stop when a school bus is
20 stopped, unless the vehicle is on the opposite side of a divided highway with a median separation.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**

22 **MARYLAND**, that a new section of the Code of Cecil County, in Chapter 101 to be titled “Section 101-3
23 School Bus Safety Cameras”, under Chapter 101 Schools, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

24 **Section 101-3. School Bus Safety Cameras**

25 A. Definitions

- 26 1) “Board” means the Cecil County Board of Education
27 2) “Sheriff” means the Cecil County Sheriff
28 3) “Violation” means a violation of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Transportation Article,
29 Section 21-706.1

- 30 4) “School bus” means a bus operated by the Board to transport students.
- 31 5) “School bus safety camera” means a camera placed on a school bus that is designed to
32 capture a recorded image of a driver of a motor vehicle committing a violation authorized by
33 Annotated Code of Maryland, Transportation Article, Section 21-706.1.
- 34 6) “Schools” means Cecil County Public Schools.
- 35 B. The Board may install, operate, maintain school bus safety cameras on school busses as permitted by
36 the Annotated Code of Maryland, Transportation Article, Section 21-706.1.
- 37 C. A person who commits a violation recorded by a school bus safety camera is subject to a civil penalty
38 authorized by the Annotated Code of Maryland, Transportation Article, Section 21-706.1.
- 39 D. The registered owner of a motor vehicle will be sent a citation by the Sheriff’s Office, which will include
40 a fine of \$250 for each violation.
- 41 E. The Schools must use any fines collected by the County for a violation recorded by a school bus safety
42 camera:
- 43 1) To recover the costs of installing, operating, and maintaining school bus safety cameras.
- 44 2) For public safety purposes, including pedestrian safety programs.
- 45 **AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date it
46 becomes law.

CERTIFICATION

I, HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Bill was posted for the public on the public bulletin board with the date, time and location of the public hearing meeting, copies were made available for the public, a copy was distributed to the press, and copy was made available on the Cecil County website.

BY: Council Manager