

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1446 (Delegate Toles)
Environment and Transportation

Commercial Driver's Instructional Permits - School Vehicles - Knowledge Test

This bill authorizes a “school vehicle driver trainer” who is employed by a county school board to administer the commercial driver’s license (CDL) instructional permit knowledge test to CDL school bus endorsement applicants. A “school vehicle driver trainer” is an individual who provides – for CDL school bus endorsement applicants – classroom instruction for the CDL instructional permit knowledge test, highway driving instruction, and instruction on State and federal safety standards. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) can implement the bill’s requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local school systems may realize administrative efficiencies, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual may not drive a school vehicle on any highway in the State unless the individual (1) passes an appropriate medical examination and (2) with respect to driving a school bus, has been issued a CDL with a school bus endorsement.

MVA, with the advice of the Maryland State Department of Education, is authorized to adopt regulations concerning the qualifications of school vehicle drivers.

Additional information regarding the requirements for various CDL endorsement types is available on MVA's [website](#).

Local Expenditures: Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) advises that it provides paid training for candidates pursuing a CDL learner's permit. However, a portion of trainees complete the required instruction but never schedule or take the knowledge test, limiting advancement into driver positions. Allowing PGCPS staff to administer the instructional permit knowledge test may streamline the process, reduce candidate attrition, and improve staffing stability. Baltimore City Public Schools similarly advises that the bill may reduce delays between classroom instruction and permit issuance. Other affected school systems may experience similar administrative efficiencies.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Transportation; Baltimore City Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510