



Renee Spence, Executive Director
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD 21228
410-925-2183
pssamed@gmail.com

BILL: Senate Bill 44
TITLE: Vehicle Laws – School Buses – Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance
DATE: January 17, 2018
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

Senate Bill 44 requires the owner of a school bus to ensure that the school bus is inspected, repaired, and maintained in accordance with certain federal regulations; prohibits the owner of a school bus from allowing the school bus to be operated unless it meets the requirements of the Act; authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration to suspend the registration of a school bus that does not meet the requirements of the Act; etc.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 44. The safe transportation of our students is always of utmost importance to local superintendents. The primary purpose of the bill is to provide for consistent and uniform standards for all school buses to include inspection, repair, and maintenance. We generally support legislation that enhances the safety of our school buses. However, we believe that there is an unintended consequence underlying in Senate Bill 44.

As proposed, Senate Bill 44 would come under federal regulation 49 C.F.R. Part 396 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation, which would require school buses to regularly weigh-in at stations. We see no value in subjecting our school buses to this unnecessary and burdensome component.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 44 and requests an unfavorable committee report.