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BILL: House Bill 259  
TITLE: Maryland Transportation Authority – Public School Buses – Exemption from Tolls  
DATE: February 16, 2017  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
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House Bill 259 requires the Maryland Transportation Authority, beginning on or before January 1, 2020, to exempt school buses owned and operated by county boards of education from tolls, fees, or any other charges for the use of transportation facilities projects; requiring the Authority to renegotiate the trust agreement with its bondholders to allow a school bus owned and operated by a county board of education to use a transportation facilities project without paying a toll, a fee, or any other charge.

PSSAM fully **supports** House Bill 259.

Local superintendents are always appreciative of any legislation that lessens the financial burden on local school systems to deliver a quality education to all students. School system owned and operated school buses regularly transport students to and from school-sponsored field trips, events, athletic events, and other activities as deemed appropriate. Exempting school buses from paying tolls, fees, or other charges for the use of transportation facilities projects will result in additional funds that will be available to help finance other vital programs that benefit our students.

PSSAM thanks the sponsors of House Bill 259 and looks forward to the anticipated date of January 1, 2020 when the proposed legislation will go into effect.

Again, for the reasons stated above, PSSAM fully **SUPPORTS** House Bill 259.