



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 73
Title: Intercounty Connector - Public School Bus - Exemption From Toll
Committee: Ways and Means
Date: February 4, 2016
Position: **SUPPORT**
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education strongly supports Senate Bill 210.

This bill would allow Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) buses to use the Intercounty Connector (ICC) without the school system paying tolls for use of the road. The ICC provides a great route across the county, minimizing time and mileage for east-west trips. The ICC is currently used by buses that travel across the county as they head for out-of-county nonpublic special education schools, sport events to the other side of the county, magnet, and cross-county MCPS special education programs.

The safety and security our students is of the utmost importance to MCPS. School buses traveling on the ICC face less traffic, better road conditions, and less travel time. Furthermore, this legislation would eliminate the approximately \$20,000 in expenses that MCPS incurs in a year. By eliminating the toll, more buses would use the Intercounty Connector and likely save bus operator time and bus fuel by allowing operators to take a more direct route to certain locations making their trips safer, quicker, and more efficient.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Education, thank you for your consideration and we strongly urge a favorable report.