

SUPPORT [HB937](#)

Topic: Funding for bike buses and other active transportation for students

Bill Patron: Delegate Destiny LeVere Bolling

OVERVIEW:

To allow school systems to support children biking and walking to school, this bill provides that School Boards that implement low- or no-cost transportation alternatives to school buses shall not be penalized in funding from the Commonwealth.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Throughout the Commonwealth, children are increasingly getting to school walking or biking groups - a trend called “walking school buses” and “bike buses,” which is increasing across the country.
- Walking and biking to school is good for both kids and the community.
 - Multiple studies show that getting physical activity before school enables children to get to school ready to learn, leading to improved academic outcomes.
 - Bike buses and walking school buses allow children to learn a life skill and to have social time, both of which improve their mental health.
 - Independent children’s mobility reduces burden on families & caregivers.
 - Walking and biking reduce school systems’ costs by reducing demand on the publicly funded school bus system and the need for school staff to direct car traffic.



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**VIRGINIA
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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)’s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia’s conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth’s natural resources today and for tomorrow.