



# National Transportation Safety Board

## Baltimore, MD School Bus Driver Licensing

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# Overview

- Ambiguity in Maryland state code regarding school bus driver employment practices
- Driver's history of license fraud
- Driver not referred to Maryland MVA despite indication that he suffered from seizures/loss of consciousness

# Ambiguity in Maryland Code

- School bus driver was convicted of second-degree assault in 2011
- Individuals convicted of “crime of violence” prohibited from driving school buses
- “Crime of violence” not defined

# Ambiguity of Maryland Code

- Early recommendation issued to MSDE to clarify disqualifying conditions for school bus drivers
- State Board of Education to vote on new COMAR language in June 2018

# License Fraud

- Repeated license revocations, suspensions, and refusals since 1970s
- Always able to obtain new licenses through fraud

# License Fraud

- In 1991, MVA refused license privileges due to physician referral regarding seizures
- Driver continued to drive using CDL registered under different name and date of birth
- In 2003, driver's CDL flagged as belonging to person referred for seizures
- In 2004, driver obtained new license despite mismatched supporting documents



# Maryland Licensing Improvements

- Strengthened licensing requirements to comply with federal regulations
- Taking part in FMCSA facial recognition pilot program
  - Only for commercial drivers
  - Limitations in number of photos analyzed
  - Program ends 2019

# Referral of Medically Unfit Driver

- School staff and coworkers observed driver having seizures
- Paramedics, nurses, and others also aware that driver experienced loss of consciousness



# Medical Referrals in Maryland

- Simple expedited referral processes for physicians and law enforcement
- No such expedited process for other first responders and health-care providers
- General lack of awareness regarding driver fitness regulations and referral process

# Summary

- Driver was always able to obtain new driver license despite history of seizures and license revocations
- Adoption of facial recognition system can prevent future license fraud
- Additional effort needed to increase referral of medically unfit drivers to MVA



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