

HOUSE BILL 1177

R1

4lr2748

By: **Delegate Glass**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority – E-ZPass Discount Plans – Removal of**
3 **Time Limitations**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that an E-ZPass discount plan for use of a
5 transportation facilities project allow an account holder to utilize the full value
6 of the plan by taking the total number of trips allowed under the plan over an
7 unlimited period of time; prohibiting the Maryland Transportation Authority
8 from increasing the cost of an E-ZPass discount plan in response to this Act;
9 defining a certain term; and generally relating to E-ZPass discount plans
10 offered by the Authority.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 4-312(a)(2)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Transportation
18 Section 4-312(c)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Transportation**

24 4-312.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (2) As to all or any part of any transportation facilities project, the
2 Authority may:

3 (i) Fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and
4 other charges and revenues for its use or for its services; and

5 (ii) Contract with any person who desires its use for any
6 purpose and fix the terms, conditions, rentals, rates, fees, tolls, or other charges or
7 revenues for this use.

8 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the rentals, rates,
9 fees, tolls, and other charges and revenues are not subject to supervision or regulation
10 by any instrumentality, agency, or unit of this State or any of its political subdivisions.

11 (2) This subtitle does not permit the exercise of any power or the
12 undertaking of any activity that would conflict with the provisions and limitations of
13 the federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964.

14 (3) Tolls for the use of the bridge carrying the John F. Kennedy
15 Memorial Highway over the Susquehanna River may not be less than the comparable
16 tolls charged for the use of the Susquehanna River Bridge.

17 **(4) (I) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "E-ZPASS DISCOUNT PLAN"**
18 **MEANS A TOLL PREPAYMENT OPTION UNDER WHICH AN E-ZPASS ACCOUNT**
19 **HOLDER PAYS FOR THE RIGHT TO USE A PARTICULAR TRANSPORTATION**
20 **FACILITIES PROJECT A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF TIMES DURING A SPECIFIED**
21 **PERIOD AT A COST PER USE THAT IS LESS THAN THE TOLL THAT IS USUALLY**
22 **CHARGED FOR USE OF THE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT.**

23 **(II) AN E-ZPASS DISCOUNT PLAN SHALL ALLOW AN**
24 **ACCOUNT HOLDER TO UTILIZE THE FULL VALUE OF THE PLAN BY TAKING THE**
25 **TOTAL NUMBER OF TRIPS ALLOWED UNDER THE PLAN OVER AN UNLIMITED**
26 **PERIOD OF TIME.**

27 **(III) THE AUTHORITY MAY NOT INCREASE THE COST OF AN**
28 **E-ZPASS DISCOUNT PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUIREMENT OF THIS**
29 **PARAGRAPH.**

30 **[(4)](5)** Prior to fixing or revising tolls on any part of any
31 transportation facilities project, the Authority shall provide, in accordance with §
32 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation
33 Committee, Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House
34 Ways and Means Committee information on the proposed toll charges, including:

35 (i) The annual revenues generated by the toll charges;

1 (ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and

2 (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 July 1, 2014.