

SENATE BILL 902

R2

4lr1636

By: **Senators Hershey, Astle, Brinkley, Colburn, Edwards, Kittleman, Klausmeier, Mathias, and Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Chesapeake Bay Bridge Crossing – Environmental Impact**
3 **Study – Cost Estimate and Payment**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that a certain provision of law regarding the
5 construction of a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge does not apply to a
6 crossing of the Chesapeake Bay; explicitly stating the power of the Maryland
7 Transportation Authority to conduct or coordinate a study of the environmental
8 impact of proposed transportation facilities; requiring the Authority, in
9 collaboration with certain other agencies, to develop a cost estimate for an
10 Environmental Impact Study for a third crossing of the Chesapeake Bay;
11 requiring the Authority to set aside a certain sum of money each year for the
12 Environmental Impact Study; requiring the Authority to conduct the
13 Environmental Impact Study; specifying that this Act may not be construed to
14 preclude the Authority from taking certain action to conduct the Environmental
15 Impact Study during a certain time period; specifying that the Environmental
16 Impact Study center around a bridge span crossing the Chesapeake Bay at a
17 certain location; and generally relating to an Environmental Impact Study for a
18 third bridge to span the Chesapeake Bay.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Transportation
21 Section 4–205 and 4–407
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Transportation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 4–205.

2 (a) Subject to § 4–306 of this title and in addition to the powers otherwise
3 specifically granted by law, the Authority has the powers described in this section.

4 (b) The Authority may acquire, hold, and dispose of property in the exercise
5 of its powers and performance of its duties.

6 (c) (1) Subject to the limitations described in paragraph (2) of this
7 subsection, the Authority may make any contracts and agreements necessary or
8 incidental to the exercise of its powers and performance of its duties.

9 (2) Not less than 45 days before entering into any contract or
10 agreement to acquire or construct a revenue-producing transportation facilities
11 project, subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the Authority shall
12 provide, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Committee on
13 Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee, for review and comment,
14 and to the Department of Legislative Services, a description of the proposed project, a
15 summary of the contract or agreement, and a financing plan that details:

16 (i) The estimated annual revenue from the issuance of bonds to
17 finance the project; and

18 (ii) The estimated impact of the issuance of bonds to finance the
19 project on the bonding capacity of the Authority.

20 (d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Authority may
21 employ and fix the compensation of attorneys, consulting engineers, accountants,
22 construction and financial experts, superintendents, managers, and any other agents
23 and employees that it considers necessary to exercise its powers and perform its
24 duties. The compensation established by the Authority for executive management
25 positions shall be consistent with the compensation of comparable positions in the
26 Department of Transportation. The compensation established by the Authority shall
27 be reported to the General Assembly each year as part of the Authority's presentation
28 of its budget.

29 (2) The expense of employing these persons may be paid only from
30 revenues or from the proceeds of revenue bonds issued by the Authority.

31 (e) The Authority may apply for and receive grants from any federal agency
32 for the planning, construction, operation, or financing of any transportation facilities
33 project and may receive aid or contributions of money, property, labor, or other things
34 of value from any source, to be held, used, and applied for the purposes for which the
35 grants, aid, and contributions are made.

36 (f) The Authority may adopt rules and regulations to carry out the
37 provisions of this title.

1 (g) The Authority may do anything else necessary or convenient to carry out
2 the powers granted in this title, **INCLUDING CONDUCTING OR COORDINATING A**
3 **STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF A PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION**
4 **FACILITY.**

5 4-407.

6 (a) This section applies to:

- 7 (1) Caroline County;
- 8 (2) Cecil County;
- 9 (3) Dorchester County;
- 10 (4) Kent County;
- 11 (5) Queen Anne's County;
- 12 (6) Somerset County;
- 13 (7) Talbot County;
- 14 (8) Wicomico County; and
- 15 (9) Worcester County.

16 **(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A TOLL ROAD, TOLL HIGHWAY,**
17 **OR TOLL BRIDGE CROSSING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.**

18 **[(b)] (C)** A State agency, including the Maryland Transportation Authority,
19 may not construct any toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge in the counties
20 enumerated in this section without the express consent of a majority of the
21 governments of the affected counties.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, acting on behalf of the
23 Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland Transportation Authority, in
24 collaboration with the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland
25 Department of Natural Resources, the United States Environmental Protection
26 Agency, and any other relevant federal agency, shall develop a cost estimate for an
27 Environmental Impact Study for a third bridge to span the Chesapeake Bay that is
28 located either:

1 (1) adjacent to the existing dual bridges spanning the Chesapeake Bay
2 between Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and Kent Island, Queen Anne's County,
3 Maryland; or

4 (2) at other locations in Maryland with termini on the Western Shore
5 and Eastern Shore that are determined to be environmentally and economically
6 feasible by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, beginning in fiscal year
8 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Maryland Transportation Authority shall set
9 aside and accumulate in a separate fund the greater of \$1,000,000 or 5% of the cost
10 estimate for the Environmental Impact Study for a third bridge to span the
11 Chesapeake Bay, as specified under Section 2 of this Act, until the amount sufficient
12 to cover the cost estimate is accumulated.

13 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, the Maryland
14 Transportation Authority, acting on behalf of the Maryland Department of
15 Transportation and in collaboration with the Maryland Department of the
16 Environment, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the United States
17 Environmental Protection Agency, and any other relevant federal agency, shall take
18 the steps necessary to commence the process and complete the Environmental Impact
19 Study for a third bridge to span the Chesapeake Bay, as specified under Section 2 of
20 this Act.

21 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be
22 construed to preclude the Maryland Transportation Authority from taking the steps
23 necessary to commence the process and complete the Environmental Impact Study for
24 a third bridge to span the Chesapeake Bay, as specified under Section 2 of this Act,
25 prior to the accumulation of an amount in the fund established under Section 3 of this
26 Act that is sufficient to pay for the estimated cost of the Environmental Impact Study.

27 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2014.