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§1-703.

(a) It is the policy of the State to authorize each county and municipality to displace or limit competition in the area of public transportation to:

- (1) provide adequate, economical, and efficient transportation services;
- (2) protect against excessive and inconsistent prices for transportation services;
- (3) conserve energy and reduce accidents, air pollution, congestion, and traffic hazards through public transportation;
- (4) encourage its use by contributing capital and operating funds so that transportation may be provided at the lowest cost; and
- (5) promote the general welfare by providing a comprehensive transportation system.

(b) Notwithstanding any anticompetitive effect, a county or municipality may:

- (1)
 - (i) grant one or more franchises for transportation services on an exclusive or nonexclusive basis;
 - (ii) impose franchise fees;
 - (iii) establish rates applicable to the franchise; and
 - (iv) adopt rules, regulations, and licensing requirements for the operation of the franchise; or
- (2) operate a public transportation system on an exclusive basis, including:
 - (i) establishing rates for the public transportation system; and
 - (ii) adopting rules and regulations for the operation of the public transportation system.

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