

SENATE BILL 416

R1

6lr1777

By: **Senators Salling, Bates, Eckardt, Edwards, Hershey, Manno, Norman, Rosapepe, Serafini, ~~and Simonaire~~ Simonaire, Astle, Benson, Feldman, Jennings, Kelley, Klausmeier, Mathias, Middleton, Pugh, and Reilly**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Toll Transportation Facilities Project – Annual Pass – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority to ~~establish for each~~
4 ~~toll transportation facilities project an option that offers motorists the opportunity~~
5 study the feasibility of offering motorists, for each transportation facilities project,
6 an option to pay a flat fee for an annual pass to use the toll transportation facilities
7 project; ~~providing that the amount of the fee for an annual pass shall be determined~~
8 ~~by the Authority~~ requiring the study to include a certain cost-benefit analysis;
9 requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority to submit a report of its findings
10 and recommendations from the study to certain committees of the General Assembly
11 on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study on offering an annual
12 pass for a toll transportation facilities project.

13 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
14 ~~Article – Transportation~~
15 ~~Section 4 – 101(h)~~
16 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
17 ~~(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)~~

18 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
19 ~~Article – Transportation~~
20 ~~Section 4 – 312(e)~~
21 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)~~

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

~~Article — Transportation~~

~~4-101.~~

~~(h) "Transportation facilities project" includes:~~

~~(1) The Susquehanna River Bridge, the Harry W. Nicc Memorial Potomac River Bridge, the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Chesapeake Bay Bridge and parallel Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, the Fort McHenry Tunnel, the Francis Scott Key Bridge, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway, together with their appurtenant causeways, approaches, interchanges, entrance plazas, toll stations, and service facilities;~~

~~(2) A vehicle parking facility located in a priority funding area as defined in § 5-7B-02 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;~~

~~(3) Any other project for transportation facilities that the Authority authorizes to be acquired or constructed; and~~

~~(4) Any additions, improvements, or enlargements to any of these projects, whenever authorized.~~

~~4-312.~~

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

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

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

~~(4) (i) THE AUTHORITY SHALL ESTABLISH FOR EACH TOLL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT AN OPTION THAT OFFERS MOTORISTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY A FLAT FEE FOR AN ANNUAL PASS TO USE THE TOLL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT.~~

1 ~~(H) THE FEE FOR THE ANNUAL PASS FOR EACH TOLL~~
 2 ~~TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE~~
 3 ~~AUTHORITY.~~

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

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

10 ~~(ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and~~

11 ~~(iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.~~

12 (a) (1) The Maryland Transportation Authority shall study the feasibility of
 13 offering motorists, for each toll transportation facilities project, an option to pay a flat fee
 14 for an annual pass to use the toll transportation facilities project.

15 (2) The study required under this subsection shall include a cost-benefit
 16 analysis of the annual pass option described under paragraph (1) of this subsection that
 17 includes consideration of:

18 (i) the benefit to consumers;

19 (ii) the programming and other costs necessary to implement the
 20 annual pass option; and

21 (iii) the impact on toll revenues for affected transportation facilities
 22 projects.

23 (b) On or before December 1, 2016, the Maryland Transportation Authority shall
 24 submit a report of its findings and recommendations from the study required under
 25 subsection (a) of this section, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
 26 to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Environment and Transportation
 27 Committee.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 29 ~~October~~ June 1, 2016.