HOUSE BILL 432


Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2020
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Transit Administration – Conversion to Electric Buses
(Electric Bus Transition Act)

FOR the purpose of prohibiting, beginning in a certain fiscal year, the Maryland Transit Administration from entering into a contract to purchase buses for the Administration’s transit bus fleet that are not electric buses; requiring the Administration, on or before a certain date and each year thereafter, to submit a report to certain committees of the General Assembly on the implementation of this Act; requiring the annual report to include a schedule for converting the transit bus fleet to electric buses exclusively, an evaluation of the necessary charging infrastructure, a plan for transitioning adversely affected State employees to certain similar or other employment, a certain estimate of the potential reduction in emissions, and certain financial analyses related to the projected costs of the conversion to electric buses; defining certain terms; and generally relating to converting the Maryland Transit Administration’s fleet of transit buses to electric buses exclusively.

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 7–406
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
7–406.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “Bus” has the meaning stated in § 11–105 of this article.

(3) “Electric bus” means a bus that is propelled solely by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery that is capable of being recharged from an external source of electricity.

(B) Beginning in fiscal year 2022, the Administration may not enter into a contract to purchase buses for the Administration’s transit bus fleet that are not electric buses.

(C) (1) On or before January 1, 2021, and each January 1 thereafter, the Administration shall, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, submit a report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Environment and Transportation Committee on the implementation of this section.

(2) The annual report shall include:

(I) A schedule for converting the Administration’s transit bus fleet to electric buses exclusively;

(II) An evaluation of the charging infrastructure needed for the Administration to create and maintain a transit bus fleet of electric buses exclusively;

(III) A plan for transitioning any State employees adversely affected by the conversion from a diesel–powered transit bus fleet to an electric–powered transit bus fleet to similar or other employment within the Administration or Department that has commensurate seniority, pay, and benefits;

(IV) In coordination with other appropriate State agencies, an estimate of the reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide emissions, measured in pounds, that will be obtained through the use of electric buses each year until the transit bus fleet is converted to electric buses exclusively; and
(V) A FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:

1. OF THE PROJECTED COST OF PURCHASING, MAINTAINING, AND PROVIDING CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE ELECTRIC TRANSIT BUS FLEET EACH YEAR UNTIL THE FLEET IS CONVERTED TO ELECTRIC BUSES EXCLUSIVELY; AND

2. COMPARING THE PROJECTED COST UNDER ITEM 1 OF THIS ITEM TO THE PROJECTED COST OF CONTINUING TO OPERATE A DIESEL–POWERED TRANSIT BUS FLEET.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.