
By: Prince George's County and Montgomery County Delegations

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 1996

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority - Changes in Fares, Rates, or**
3 **Services - Public Hearings**
4 **PG/MC 13-96**

5 FOR the purpose of expanding the public hearing requirements of the Board of Directors
6 of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); repealing the
7 exceptions to the public hearing requirements; reducing the period required for
8 notice of public hearings; authorizing the Board to establish noticeposting
9 requirements through regulations; establishing certain Maryland standards for
10 major service reductions; establishing certain Maryland requirements for notice of
11 public hearing requirements; providing for a certain contingency; and generally
12 relating to public hearings before the WMATA.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article - Transportation
15 Section 10-204 Title III Article XIII Section 62(a) and (c)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Transportation**

21 10-204.

22 Title III

23 Article XIII

1 62.

2 (a) [The board shall not make or change any fare or rate, nor establish or
3 abandon any service except after holding a public hearing with respect thereto, except for
4 service changes required by an emergency; minor service changes as defined by
5 regulations promulgated by the board; experimental service established to test the effect
6 of such service, and in effect for not more than six months; and fare and service changes
7 established for special events.] THE BOARD SHALL NOT RAISE ANY FARE OR RATE,
8 NOR IMPLEMENT A MAJOR SERVICE REDUCTION, EXCEPT AFTER HOLDING A
9 PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

10 (c) The [board] BOARD shall give at least [thirty] FIFTEEN days' notice for all
11 PUBLIC hearings. The notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of daily
12 circulation throughout the [zone] TRANSIT ZONE and such notice shall be published
13 once a week for two successive weeks. The notice PERIOD shall start with the FIRST day
14 of [first] publication. [In addition, the board shall post notices of the hearing in its
15 offices, all stations and terminals and in all of its vehicles and rolling stock in revenue
16 service.] NOTICES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS SHALL BE POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
17 REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in Maryland, the
19 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority shall conform with the following
20 standards that constitute a major service reduction. A major service reduction includes:
21 (1) one or more reductions in a single year that represent a total reduction of more than
22 20% in that year in the number of scheduled revenue miles; (2) one or more reductions in
23 a single year that represent a total reduction of more than 1 hour in that year in the hours
24 of service; (3) one or more reductions in a single year that represent a total reduction of
25 more than 15% in that year in the number of route miles; or (4) one or more eliminations
26 of service in a single year that represent a total elimination of service in that year for
27 more than 10% of current riders. Any change that does not conform with these standards
28 shall constitute a minor service reduction.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in Maryland, any posting
30 of notice of public hearing regulations adopted by the Washington Metropolitan Area
31 Transit Authority under this Act shall include requirements for advanced posting of
32 notice at stations, terminals, bus shelters, and vehicles that serve members of the public
33 that are directly affected by a proposed change.

34 SECTION 2- 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act
35 may not take effect until similar Acts are passed by the District of Columbia and the
36 Commonwealth of Virginia; that the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of
37 Virginia are requested to concur in this Act of the General Assembly by the passage of
38 substantially similar Acts; that the Department of Legislative Reference shall notify the
39 appropriate officials of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the
40 United States Congress of the passage of this Act; and that, upon the concurrence in
41 Section 1 of this Act by the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the
42 United States, the Governor of the State of Maryland shall issue a proclamation declaring
43 this Act valid and effective and shall forward a copy of the proclamation to the Director
44 of the Department of Legislative Reference.

1 SECTION ~~3-~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the
2 provisions of Section ~~2~~ 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 1996.