

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 711 (Prince George's County and Montgomery County Delegations)
Commerce and Government Matters Referred to Select Bi-County

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

This amended bill prohibits the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) from raising any fare or rate or implementing a major service reduction without first holding a public hearing. Standards that constitute a major service reduction are specified. The bill also reduces the minimum number of days' notice for public hearings from 30 to 15, and requires notices of public hearings to be posted in accordance with regulations established by the board and guidelines set forth in the bill.

The bill will not take effect unless similar bills are passed in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal decrease in expenditures as discussed below. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Because the bill reduces the circumstances under which public hearings must be held, and relieves WMATA from the obligation of posting notices in widely dispersed geographic areas that are not affected by proposed changes, there may be a minimal decrease in the administrative costs of conducting and posting notices for public hearings.

Information Source(s): Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 1996

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Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 1996

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