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**By: Senators Dyson and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mass Transit Administration - Light Rail - Future Extension**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Mass Transit Administration to study a long-term  
4 future light rail extension between certain locations in St. Mary's and Charles  
5 Counties; requiring the study to include an identification of the property needed for  
6 the light rail line, an identification of the ownership of the property, an estimate of  
7 the cost to purchase the property, and the feasibility of using an existing railroad for  
8 a portion of the future extension; requiring the Administration to acquire the  
9 needed rights-of-way subject to obtaining necessary funding; requiring the  
10 Administration to consult certain agencies; defining a certain term; requiring the  
11 Administration to report to the Governor, Secretary of Transportation, and the  
12 General Assembly before a certain date; and generally relating to the study of a  
13 future light rail extension.

14 BY adding to

15 Article - Transportation  
16 Section 7-309  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Transportation**

22 7-309.

23 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUTURE EXTENSION" MEANS A PROPOSED  
24 LONG-TERM FUTURE LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION:

25 (1) ORIGINATING IN BRANDYWINE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, AT A  
26 LOCATION THAT WILL CONNECT WITH THE PROPOSED LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM  
27 IN THE MARYLAND ROUTE 5 CORRIDOR, RUNNING FROM THE BRANCH AVENUE  
28 METRORAIL STATION TO WHITE PLAINS IN CHARLES COUNTY; AND

29 (2) TERMINATING IN LEXINGTON PARK IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

30 (B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY:

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1 (1) IDENTIFYING THE PROPERTY THAT WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE  
2 FUTURE EXTENSION AND DETERMINING THE OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY;

3 (2) ESTIMATING THE COST FOR THE STATE TO PURCHASE THE  
4 NECESSARY RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR THE FUTURE EXTENSION; AND

5 (3) DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING A PORTION OF THE  
6 EXISTING CONRAIL BRANCH LINE BETWEEN BRANDYWINE AND THE VICINITY OF  
7 HUGHESVILLE FOR A PORTION OF THE FUTURE EXTENSION.

8 (C) SUBJECT TO OBTAINING THE NECESSARY FUNDING, THE  
9 ADMINISTRATION SHALL ACQUIRE THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY IDENTIFIED BY THE  
10 STUDY THAT ARE NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE EXTENSION.

11 (D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONSULT THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN  
12 THE AREA OF THE FUTURE EXTENSION AND ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
13 COMMITTEE OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL AGENCY STAFFS TO REVIEW AND OVERSEE  
14 THE STUDY.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Mass Transit  
16 Administration shall report to the Governor, the Secretary of Transportation, and the  
17 General Assembly on or before December 1, 1998, in accordance with § 2-1312 of the  
18 State Government Article, on the results of the study required by this Act.

19 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 1997.