
By: Senators Dyson and Middleton

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 28, 1997

CHAPTER ____

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~~ certain costs, and an examination of certain
8 alternatives, and a determination of the feasibility of using an existing railroad for a
9 portion of the future extension; ~~requiring the Administration to acquire the needed~~
10 ~~rights of way subject to obtaining necessary funding~~ prohibiting the expenditure of
11 funds from the Transportation Trust Fund or any other State source for certain
12 purposes until the Administration has completed the study under this Act and
13 reported its findings to certain committees of the General Assembly for review and
14 comment; requiring the Administration to consult certain agencies; defining a
15 certain term; requiring the Administration to report to the Governor, Secretary of
16 Transportation, and the General Assembly before a certain date; providing for the
17 construction of this Act; and generally relating to the study of a future light rail
18 extension.

19 BY adding to

20 Article - Transportation

21 Section 7-309

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2

1 **Article - Transportation**

2 7-309.

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

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

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

10 (B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY:

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

13 (2) ESTIMATING THE COST FOR THE STATE TO PURCHASE THE
14 NECESSARY RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR THE FUTURE EXTENSION; ~~AND~~

15 (3) DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING A PORTION OF THE
16 EXISTING CONRAIL BRANCH LINE BETWEEN BRANDYWINE AND THE VICINITY OF
17 HUGHESVILLE FOR A PORTION OF THE FUTURE EXTENSION;

18 (4) ESTIMATING THE TOTAL PROJECT COSTS FOR:

19 (I) ALL ASPECTS OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING
20 THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF ALL PROPOSED STATIONS AND PARKING
21 AREAS;

22 (II) THE COMPLETION OF DRAFT AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
23 IMPACT STATEMENTS;

24 (III) PRELIMINARY AND FINAL ENGINEERING; AND

25 (IV) ALL NECESSARY LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT;

26 (5) ESTIMATING THE PROJECTED RIDERSHIP, OPERATING COSTS, AND
27 LEVEL OF FARES NECESSARY TO GENERATE A FAREBOX RECOVERY LEVEL OF 50%
28 OF NET OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE FUTURE EXTENSION;

29 (6) DETERMINING THE NECESSITY AND ESTIMATING THE COST OF:

30 (I) ANCILLARY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS
31 IMPROVEMENTS TO STATE HIGHWAYS OR COUNTY-OWNED ROADS; AND

32 (II) BUS SERVICES TO AUGMENT THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE
33 FUTURE EXTENSION; AND

34 (7) EXAMINING ALTERNATIVES TO THE FUTURE EXTENSION,
35 INCLUDING ALIGNMENTS COVERING SHORTER DISTANCES.

3

1 ~~(C) SUBJECT TO OBTAINING THE NECESSARY FUNDING, THE~~
 2 ~~ADMINISTRATION SHALL ACQUIRE THE RIGHTS OF WAY IDENTIFIED BY THE~~
 3 ~~STUDY THAT ARE NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE EXTENSION.~~

4 (C) FUNDS MAY NOT BE EXPENDED FROM THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST
 5 FUND OR ANY OTHER STATE SOURCE FOR THE FUTURE EXTENSION, INCLUDING
 6 ACQUISITION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT OR FINAL
 7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS, PRELIMINARY OR FINAL ENGINEERING,
 8 OR CONSTRUCTION, UNTIL THE ADMINISTRATION:

9 (1) HAS COMPLETED THE STUDY REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF
 10 THIS SECTION; AND

11 (2) HAS SUBMITTED A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE HOUSE
 12 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, THE
 13 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION
 14 COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2000
 15 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

16 (D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONSULT THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN
 17 THE AREA OF THE FUTURE EXTENSION AND ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL ADVISORY
 18 COMMITTEE OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL AGENCY STAFFS TO REVIEW AND OVERSEE
 19 THE STUDY.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Mass Transit
 21 Administration shall report to the Governor, the Secretary of Transportation, and, in
 22 accordance with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly and
 23 the Committees of the General Assembly specified in Section 1 of this Act on or before
 24 December 1, 1998, ~~in accordance with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, 1999~~ on
 25 the results of the study required by this Act.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be
 27 construed as endorsing the proposed light rail extension described in Section 1 of this Act
 28 or as authorizing the Mass Transit Administration to take any action with respect to the
 29 proposed light rail extension beyond conducting the study required under Section 1 of this
 30 Act.

31 SECTION ~~3.~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 32 October 1, 1997.