

HOUSE BILL 820

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R2

1998 Regular Session
8r1215
CF 8r1980

By: **Prince George's County and Montgomery County Delegations**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Metrorail - Bicycles on Trains**
3 **PG/MC 33-98**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to
5 adopt certain rules to encourage the use of Metrorail facilities by bicyclists and
6 eliminate certain requirements in order to carry a bicycle on the Metrorail;
7 providing that this Act may not take effect until certain events take place; and
8 generally relating to bicycles on the Metrorail.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Transportation
11 Section 10-204 Title III Article XVI Section 76(e)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

14 **Preamble**

15 WHEREAS, The present Metrorail system policy requires anyone wishing to
16 take a bicycle on a Metrorail train to go to a central office at a specific time, take an
17 exam, be photographed for identification cards similar to drivers' licenses, and pay a
18 \$15 fee; and

19 WHEREAS, The times that bicycles may be taken on the Metrorail trains are
20 restricted to arbitrarily defined nonrush hours even though many trains travel at less
21 than full capacity even during peak hours; and

22 WHEREAS, The present Metrorail policy which prohibits more than two
23 bicycles per train from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. prohibits many families and tour groups from
24 using the Metrorail; and

25 WHEREAS, The Maryland Secretary of Transportation reports that there have
26 been no problems arising from the unrestricted taking of bicycles on Maryland's light
27 rail and MTA, and other cities such as Atlanta, San Francisco, and New York have
28 little problem with bicycles on their rail systems; and

1 WHEREAS, The elimination of bicycle restrictions will:

2 (1) Attract bicycle tourists to the newly created Maryland trail system
3 that extends north from Washington, D.C. to York, Pennsylvania, via Annapolis,
4 Baltimore, and BWI Airport and west via the C&O Canal to new trails being
5 developed in Maryland's western counties;

6 (2) Allow biking families and tourists to use Metrorail to reach
7 recreational facilities, attractions, or events in downtown Washington, D.C. or in
8 Maryland;

9 (3) Ensure the availability of inexpensive rail transportation for
10 individuals who hesitate to take the currently required test because of cost, language
11 barriers, or reading difficulties;

12 (4) Promote the use of Metrorail by commuters whose destinations are
13 within easy biking distance from Metrorail stations; and

14 (5) Provide a unified policy regarding the carrying of bicycles on publicly
15 supported rail facilities in the State of Maryland; now, therefore,

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

18 **Article - Transportation**

19 10-204.

20 Title III

21 Article XVI

22 76.

23 (e) The Authority shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations for the
24 safe, convenient and orderly use of the transit facilities, including the payment and
25 the manner of the payment of fares or charges therefor, the protection of the transit
26 facilities, the control of traffic and parking upon the transit facilities, and the safety
27 and protection of the riding public. THE AUTHORITY SHALL ADOPT RULES AND
28 REGULATIONS THAT ENCOURAGE THE USE OF METRORAIL FACILITIES BY
29 BICYCLISTS AND ELIMINATE ANY REQUIREMENT THAT A PASSENGER TAKE A TEST
30 OR OBTAIN A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION IN ORDER TO CARRY A BICYCLE ON A
31 METRORAIL CAR. In the event that any such rules and regulations contravene the
32 laws, ordinances or regulations or police operational rules of a signatory or any
33 political subdivision thereof which are existing or subsequently enacted, these laws,
34 ordinances or regulations of the signatory or the political subdivision shall apply and
35 the conflicting rule or regulation, or portion thereof, of the Authority shall be void
36 within the jurisdiction of that signatory or political subdivision. In all other respects,
37 the rules and regulations of the Authority shall be uniform throughout the transit
38 zone. The rules and regulations adopted by WMATA will be adopted by the board

1 following public hearings held in accordance with § 15 supra and then shall be
2 published by the political subdivisions of the signatories in the same manner as their
3 respective local ordinances are published. Judges and clerks of the several courts
4 having jurisdiction in the signatories and their political subdivisions shall have the
5 authority to impose, collect, and enforce penalties for failure to pay fines for violation
6 of such rules and regulations in the same manner as fines are imposed, collected, and
7 enforced in the respective signatories or political subdivisions. Any person violating
8 any rule or regulation of the Authority shall be subject to arrest and, upon conviction
9 by a court of competent jurisdiction, shall pay a fine of not more than \$250 and costs
10 and, upon further order of the court, shall reimburse WMATA for any loss or damage
11 resulting from the violation.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not take
13 effect until similar acts are passed by the District of Columbia and the
14 Commonwealth of Virginia; that the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of
15 Virginia are requested to concur in this Act of the General Assembly by passage of
16 similar acts; that the Department of Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate
17 officials of the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the
18 United States Congress of the passage of this Act; and that upon concurrence in this
19 Act by the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Governor of
20 the State of Maryland shall issue a proclamation declaring this Act valid and
21 effective.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of
23 this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.