

SENATE BILL 256

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R2
SB 685/97 - FIN

1998 Regular Session
8r1432

By: **Senators Dyson and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1998

Assigned to: Finance

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

18 BY adding to
19 Article - Transportation
20 Section 7-309
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

25 **Article - Transportation**

26 7-309.

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

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

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

6 (B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY:

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

9 (2) ESTIMATING THE COST FOR THE STATE TO PURCHASE THE
10 NECESSARY RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR THE FUTURE EXTENSION;

11 (3) DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING A PORTION OF THE
12 EXISTING CONRAIL BRANCH LINE BETWEEN BRANDYWINE AND THE VICINITY OF
13 HUGHESVILLE FOR A PORTION OF THE FUTURE EXTENSION;

14 (4) ESTIMATING THE TOTAL PROJECT COSTS FOR:

15 (I) ALL ASPECTS OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING THE
16 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF ALL PROPOSED STATIONS AND PARKING AREAS;

17 (II) THE COMPLETION OF DRAFT AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
18 IMPACT STATEMENTS;

19 (III) PRELIMINARY AND FINAL ENGINEERING; AND

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

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

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

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

27 (II) BUS SERVICES TO AUGMENT THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE
28 FUTURE EXTENSION; AND

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

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

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

3 (2) HAS SUBMITTED A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE HOUSE
4 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, THE
5 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION
6 COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2000
7 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Mass Transit
13 Administration shall report to the Governor, the Secretary of Transportation, and, in
14 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly and
15 the Committees of the General Assembly specified in Section 1 of this Act on or before
16 December 1, 2000 on the results of the study required by this Act.

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

22 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 1998.