

SENATE BILL 318

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1998 Regular Session
8r1980
CF 8r1215

By: **Senators Dorman, Ruben, Green, and Forehand**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1998
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Metrorail - Bicycles on Trains**

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

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

13 **Preamble**

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, The elimination of bicycle restrictions will:

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 **Article - Transportation**

18 10-204.

19 Title III

20 Article XVI

21 76.

22 (e) The Authority shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations for the
23 safe, convenient and orderly use of the transit facilities, including the payment and
24 the manner of the payment of fares or charges therefor, the protection of the transit
25 facilities, the control of traffic and parking upon the transit facilities, and the safety
26 and protection of the riding public. THE AUTHORITY SHALL ADOPT RULES AND
27 REGULATIONS THAT ENCOURAGE THE USE OF METRORAIL FACILITIES BY
28 BICYCLISTS AND ELIMINATE ANY REQUIREMENT THAT A PASSENGER TAKE A TEST
29 OR OBTAIN A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION IN ORDER TO CARRY A BICYCLE ON A
30 METRORAIL CAR. In the event that any such rules and regulations contravene the
31 laws, ordinances or regulations or police operational rules of a signatory or any
32 political subdivision thereof which are existing or subsequently enacted, these laws,
33 ordinances or regulations of the signatory or the political subdivision shall apply and
34 the conflicting rule or regulation, or portion thereof, of the Authority shall be void
35 within the jurisdiction of that signatory or political subdivision. In all other respects,
36 the rules and regulations of the Authority shall be uniform throughout the transit
37 zone. The rules and regulations adopted by WMATA will be adopted by the board
38 following public hearings held in accordance with § 15 supra and then shall be
39 published by the political subdivisions of the signatories in the same manner as their

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

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

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