

HOUSE BILL 648

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R7

2000 Regular Session  
0lr1876  
CF 0lr2782

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By: **Delegates Carlson, Hurson, Patterson, Phillips, Rosso, and Bronrott**  
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2000  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation - Mass Transit - Implementation of User-Friendly Policies**  
3 **for Children, Youth, and Families**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Maryland Department of Transportation in  
5 conjunction with local transit agencies evaluate, and where feasible, implement  
6 policies to promote and encourage the usage of mass transit by children, youth,  
7 and families; requesting that the Department and local transit agencies consult  
8 with interested parties and hold certain public hearings to receive certain  
9 information regarding the implementation of policies that promote the usage of  
10 mass transit by children, youth, and families; requiring the Department to issue  
11 a report of its findings and recommendations; and generally relating to the  
12 consideration and possible adoption of policies that might promote the usage of  
13 mass transit by children, youth, and families by the Maryland Department of  
14 Transportation and local transit agencies.

15 **Preamble**

16 WHEREAS, In its final report issued in December 1999, the Commission on  
17 Transportation Investment that was created by the General Assembly in the 1999  
18 Session concluded that "[B]y the year 2020, Maryland's population will increase by  
19 more than 1,000,000 to a total of 6,000,000 citizens, [that] there will be 700,000 more  
20 jobs in the State, and [that] vehicle miles traveled in Maryland will increase from 48  
21 billion to 68 billion, or nearly twice the rate of population growth ... "; and

22 WHEREAS, The Commission recommended that mass transit projects and  
23 services "... should be expanded to meet the goal of increasing patronage from 570,000  
24 to 1,000,000 riders a day by 2020 ... "; and

25 WHEREAS, The Commission further recommended that the State should  
26 allocate its "... available resources [for projects] ... to reduce congestion, implement  
27 Smart Growth strategies that offer travel choices, foster livable communities, and  
28 promote economic opportunities throughout the State ... "; and

29 WHEREAS, Increased mass transit usage is an important component of  
30 environmental preservation and the maintenance of livable communities throughout

1 the State, is wholly consistent with the State's Smart Growth policies, and will reduce  
2 highway congestion and the need for massive highway improvement projects; and

3 WHEREAS, State officials and leaders also have a strong commitment to  
4 policies that promote the health, intellectual development, and vibrancy of all of its  
5 citizens - especially its children, youth, and families - and recognize that  
6 transportation policies that promote those goals while simultaneously enhancing the  
7 opportunity for family-friendly outings and activities provide multiple societal and  
8 governmental benefits; and

9 WHEREAS, It is in the State's interest to educate and expose children and  
10 youth to systems of mass transit at an early age so that they may better appreciate  
11 the benefits and potential of mass transit and thereby become more likely to readily  
12 utilize mass transit when they become adults; and

13 WHEREAS, Many of the State's children and youth and other vulnerable  
14 populations often do not have access to their own private vehicles or other private  
15 transportation options; and

16 WHEREAS, Some of the State's mass transit systems currently may promote  
17 mass transit usage by the elderly and some of the other more vulnerable members of  
18 our community through fare discounts or other user-friendly programs; and

19 WHEREAS, It is likely that the adoption of targeted, user-friendly policies to  
20 promote mass transit usage by children, youth, and families may not have  
21 detrimental fiscal implications for the State's mass transit systems but rather  
22 enhance the fiscal operations of those systems; now, therefore,

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
24 MARYLAND, That:

25 (a) The General Assembly of Maryland requests the Maryland Department of  
26 Transportation, in conjunction with the local mass transit agencies throughout the  
27 State, consult with one another to evaluate and, where fiscally and programmatically  
28 feasible, adopt and implement policies that encourage and promote the usage of mass  
29 transit by children, youth, and families.

30 (b) In formulating any proposed policies and recommendations to promote  
31 increased mass transit usage by children, youth, and families, the Department and  
32 local mass transit agencies consult with other interested parties and hold public  
33 hearings to gather information and to receive ideas and recommendations.

34 (c) The Department shall report the findings and recommendations developed  
35 by it and the local transit agencies to the Governor, and as provided in § 2-1246 of the  
36 State Government Article, to the General Assembly by October 1, 2000.

37 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
38 June 1, 2000.