

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.