

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1366 (Delegates Howard and Healev)

Appropriations

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**Transportation - Low Income - Job Access Program**

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This bill establishes a “job access program” for which the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) must identify funds in the annual budget of the department that the Secretary deems necessary to ensure that low income persons may obtain reasonable transportation services to employment or job-related activities.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill codifies the existing practice of the Mass Transit Administration (MTA). The proposed FY 2001 budget includes \$2.1 million in federal funds and \$1.3 million in Transportation Trust Funds to administer the program.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** Transportation providers must file a written application to MDOT and must have the concurrence of the local department of social services before receiving funds from the program. Funds are made available to transportation providers in areas of the State that most need additional funds for “job access projects,” as determined by the Secretary.

A transportation provider that receives any funds for a capital expenditure under the job access program must expend matching funds of at least 20% of the total cost of the proposed capital expenditure. Similarly, a provider that receives any funds for operating expenditures under the program must expend matching funds of at least 25% of the total cost of the proposed operating expenditures.

The transportation provider must: (1) use all grants distributed to it only for the acquisition or replacement of equipment or the operating costs of the job access project; (2) consult with local departments of social services to determine the most effective means of serving the transportation needs of its low-income workers in the program; and (3) cooperate with other transportation providers to best serve the needs of the low-income workers in the program.

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** As part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the federal government provides grants to states under its Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program. It is designed to provide transportation alternatives for welfare recipients and low income individuals in order to travel to and from jobs and activities related to employment. The program requires a 50% match from participating states and local jurisdictions. Total funding for the federal program is \$150 million in federal fiscal 2001.

MDOT will receive \$2.1 million in federal funds for the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program. The proposed fiscal 2001 budget includes \$1,259,000 in Transportation Trust Funds to partially meet the match requirement. Local jurisdictions or other entities applying for funds will contribute the remainder of the match requirement. The application, funding, and other procedural requirements outlined by the bill mirror those which the MTA follows to administer the federal program.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation (Mass Transit Administration), National Conference of State Legislatures, Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2000  
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