

HOUSE BILL 10

Unofficial Copy
R2

2001 Regular Session
11r1370
CF 11r2473

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Taylor, Hurson, Dewberry, Busch, Doory, Harrison, Hixson, Howard, Kopp, Menes, Rosenberg, Vallario, and Wood Wood, W. Baker, Bozman, Bronrott, Brown, Burns, Cadden, Carlson, Cole, Conway, D'Amato, DeCarlo, Frush, Giannetti, Goldwater, Hecht, James, A. Jones, V. Jones, Kirk, Love, McIntosh, Moe, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Patterson, Pendergrass, Pitkin, Riley, Rosso, Shriver, and Stern**

Requested: November 15, 2000

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2001

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 14, 2001

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Joint Legislative Commission on**
3 **Interstate Transportation - Regional Transportation Authority Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting the Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Joint
5 Legislative Commission on Interstate Transportation to study, in consultation
6 with certain governing bodies, the issue of establishing a Regional
7 Transportation Authority; expressing the intent of the General Assembly that
8 the Commission not consider issues relating to aviation; requesting the Speaker
9 of the House, the President of the Senate and their Virginia and District of
10 Columbia counterparts to consider a certain expansion of the Commission;
11 requesting the Commission to submit ~~a certain report~~ reports on or before ~~a~~
12 ~~certain date~~ certain dates; and generally relating to the
13 Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Joint Legislative Commission on
14 Interstate Transportation.

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, Residents in the Metropolitan Washington Region, particularly
17 those in Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland, face the second longest daily
18 commutes in the United States, with only Los Angeles area residents spending more
19 time each day commuting to work; and

1 WHEREAS, Residents in the Metropolitan Washington Region have the highest
2 per capita income lost because of transportation gridlock and pay nearly \$1,260 per
3 year in higher consumer prices because of the effects of traffic congestion; and

4 WHEREAS, By the year 2020, trips to or from work will increase by 2.5 million
5 per day, for a total of 6.1 million trips per day with suburb-to-suburb work trips
6 accounting for 3 of every 4 work trips; and

7 WHEREAS, Trips to and from work comprise only 25% of all daily trips in the
8 Metropolitan Region; and

9 WHEREAS, By the year 2025, the total increase in daily work and nonwork
10 trips in the Washington Metropolitan Region will increase by 38%, from
11 approximately 12.8 million trips per day to approximately 17.6 million trips per day,
12 yet according to currently adopted regional long range plans, highway lane miles will
13 increase by only 13% over the same period, from approximately 12,500 to
14 approximately 14,100 lane miles, leaving a much greater gap between projected
15 demand and available capacity than exists today, according to the Metropolitan
16 Washington Area Council of Governments; and

17 WHEREAS, By the year 2020, traffic volumes across existing bridges in the
18 Metropolitan Washington Region will ~~early~~ increase to more than 400,000 trips above
19 design capacity each day, yet Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia have
20 had difficulty coordinating long term regional transportation and related growth
21 policies; and

22 WHEREAS, Although there is frequent and beneficial coordination among
23 executive branch officials and local government officials in Maryland, Virginia, and
24 the District of Columbia, a more formal structure for coordinating transportation
25 solutions may be beneficial in improving transportation and mobility for residents of
26 the Metropolitan Washington Region, particularly residents of Northern Virginia and
27 suburban Maryland; and

28 WHEREAS, Because of the increasing amount of commuter traffic between the
29 Metropolitan Washington Region and Baltimore, discussions of a Regional
30 Transportation Authority would be aided on the Maryland side by the addition of a
31 House and Senate representative from the Baltimore area; now, therefore,

32 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
33 MARYLAND, That

34 (a) The Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Joint Legislative
35 Commission on Interstate Transportation is requested to study, in consultation with
36 the governing bodies of counties in the Metropolitan Washington Region, the issue of
37 establishing a Regional Transportation Authority for the Metropolitan Washington
38 Region, including in the study a review of such issues as:

39 (1) the funding of transportation projects;

1 (2) transportation capacity and projected travel demands for all modes of
2 travel by 2025;

3 (3) transit alternatives;

4 (4) Potomac River crossings;

5 (5) coordination of and compliance with land use policies;

6 (6) air pollution control policies; ~~and~~

7 (7) the organizational structures, powers, and responsibilities of a
8 regional transportation authority, including a review of regional transportation
9 planning and decision making bodies already created under the laws of Maryland,
10 Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and the experience of other states and regions
11 that have created regional transportation authorities; and

12 (8) other issues the Commission believes are relevant to a Regional
13 Transportation Authority.

14 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that, in reviewing the issues
15 specified in subsection (a) of this section, the Commission not consider issues relating
16 to aviation.

17 (c) The Maryland Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate shall
18 discuss with their appropriate counterparts in Virginia and the District of Columbia
19 the advisability of expanding the membership of the Commission to a slightly broader
20 geographic area in both Maryland and Virginia.

21 ~~(e)~~ (d) (1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commission
22 submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the General
23 Assembly in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article in time to
24 submit its findings and recommendations, and to the Governors of Maryland and
25 Virginia, the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia, and the General
26 Assemblies of Maryland and Assembly of Virginia, and the local government officials
27 of the affected counties and municipal corporations, prior to their respective 2002
28 legislative sessions on or before December 1, 2001.

29 (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commission submit
30 a final report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in
31 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, and to the Governors of
32 Maryland and Virginia, the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia, the
33 General Assembly of Virginia, and the local government officials of the affected
34 counties and municipal corporations, on or before December 1, 2002.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
36 ~~October~~ June 1, 2001.

