

SENATE BILL 341

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2001 Regular Session
11r2473
CF HB 10

By: **Senators Miller and Forehand**
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2001
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

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 the issue of
6 establishing a Regional Transportation Authority; requesting the Speaker of the
7 House, the President of the Senate and their Virginia and District of Columbia
8 counterparts to consider a certain expansion of the Commission; requesting the
9 Commission to submit a certain report on or before a certain date; and generally
10 relating to the Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Joint Legislative
11 Commission on Interstate Transportation.

12 Preamble

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, By the year 2020, traffic volumes across existing bridges in the
24 Metropolitan Washington Region will carry more than 400,000 trips above design
25 capacity each day, yet Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia have had
26 difficulty coordinating long term regional transportation and related growth policies;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Although there is frequent and beneficial coordination among
29 executive branch officials and local government officials in Maryland, Virginia, and
30 the District of Columbia, a more formal structure for coordinating transportation

1 solutions may be beneficial in improving transportation and mobility for residents of
2 the Metropolitan Washington Region, particularly residents of Northern Virginia and
3 suburban Maryland; and

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

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
9 MARYLAND, That

10 (a) The Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Joint Legislative
11 Commission on Interstate Transportation is requested to study the issue of
12 establishing a Regional Transportation Authority for the Metropolitan Washington
13 Region, including in the study a review of such issues as:

- 14 (1) the funding of transportation projects;
- 15 (2) transportation capacity;
- 16 (3) transit alternatives;
- 17 (4) Potomac River crossings;
- 18 (5) coordination of land use policies;
- 19 (6) air pollution control policies; and
- 20 (7) other issues the Commission believes are relevant to a Regional
21 Transportation Authority.

22 (b) The Maryland Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate shall
23 discuss with their appropriate counterparts in Virginia and the District of Columbia
24 the advisability of expanding the membership of the Commission to a slightly broader
25 geographic area in both Maryland and Virginia.

26 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commission report its
27 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1246
28 of the State Government Article in time to submit its findings and recommendations
29 to the Governors of Maryland and Virginia, the Mayor and Council of the District of
30 Columbia, and the General Assemblies of Maryland and Virginia, prior to their
31 respective 2002 legislative sessions.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2001.