

SENATE BILL 341

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2001 Regular Session
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CF HB 10

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 13, 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 and the Maryland Department of Transportation,
7 the issue of establishing a Regional Transportation Authority; requesting the
8 Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and their Virginia and
9 District of Columbia counterparts to consider a certain expansion of the
10 Commission; requesting the Commission to submit ~~a certain report~~ reports on or
11 before ~~a certain date~~ certain dates; and generally relating to the
12 Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Joint Legislative Commission on
13 Interstate Transportation.

14 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Although there is frequent and beneficial coordination among
17 executive branch officials and local government officials in Maryland, Virginia, and
18 the District of Columbia, a more formal structure for coordinating transportation
19 solutions may be beneficial in improving transportation and mobility for residents of
20 the Metropolitan Washington Region, particularly residents of Northern Virginia and
21 suburban Maryland; and

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

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That

28 (a) The Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Joint Legislative
29 Commission on Interstate Transportation is requested to study, in consultation with
30 the governing bodies of counties in the Metropolitan Washington Region and the
31 Maryland Department of Transportation, the issue of establishing a Regional
32 Transportation Authority for the Metropolitan Washington Region, including in the
33 study a review of such issues as:

34 (1) the funding of transportation projects;

35 (2) transportation capacity and travel demands for all modes of travel by
36 2025, including travel demand reduction strategies;

37 (3) transit alternatives;

38 (4) Potomac River crossings;

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

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

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

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

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

13 (c) (1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commission submit
14 an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in
15 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article in time to submit its
16 findings and recommendations, and to the Governors of Maryland and Virginia, the
17 Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia, and the General Assemblies of
18 Maryland and Assembly of Virginia, and the local government officials of the affected
19 counties and municipal corporations prior to their respective 2002 legislative sessions
20 on or before December 1, 2001.

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

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