

SENATE BILL 355

Unofficial Copy  
R2  
HB 1366/00 - APP

2001 Regular Session  
1lr0060

---

By: **Chairman, Budget and Taxation Committee (Departmental -  
Transportation)**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2001

Assigned to: Rules

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a job access program to provide grants to  
4 transportation providers for job access projects; requiring the Secretary of  
5 Transportation to make grants to transportation providers that meet certain  
6 criteria under certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary under certain  
7 circumstances to consult with the local department of social services before  
8 approving a certain application; requiring the Secretary to give priority to  
9 certain areas of the State when allocating funds under the job access program;  
10 requiring a transportation provider that receives funds for a capital expenditure  
11 to expend a matching fund of a certain amount; requiring a transportation  
12 provider that receives funds for operating expenditures to expend a matching  
13 fund of a certain amount; requiring a transportation provider to use certain  
14 funds only for the acquisition or replacement of equipment or the operating costs  
15 of a job access project; requiring a transportation provider that receives a  
16 certain grant to consult with the local department of social services to make a  
17 certain determination; requiring a transportation provider to cooperate with  
18 certain other transportation providers to best serve the transportation needs of  
19 low-income workers; requiring certain transportation providers to submit a  
20 certain report to the Secretary; requiring the Secretary to encourage a  
21 transportation provider to continue to maximize the use of certain funds and to  
22 enter into certain agreements; providing that certain funds be used to  
23 supplement and not supplant existing funds used by a transportation provider  
24 of transportation services; authorizing the Secretary to adopt certain  
25 regulations; providing for the construction of this Act; defining certain terms;  
26 and generally relating to a job access program.

27 BY adding to  
28 Article - Transportation  
29 Section 2-103.6  
30 Annotated Code of Maryland  
31 (1993 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article - Transportation**

4 2-103.6.

5 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
6 INDICATED.

7 (2) "JOB ACCESS PROJECT" MEANS A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE  
8 REASONABLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO EMPLOYMENT OR JOB-RELATED  
9 ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-INCOME WORKERS THAT:

10 (I) FACILITATES TRIPS TO AND FROM JOBS AND OTHER  
11 EMPLOYMENT RELATED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CHILD CARE, JOB SKILLS  
12 ENHANCEMENT, AND EMPLOYMENT SEEKING ACTIVITIES; AND

13 (II) SERVES LOW-INCOME WORKERS WITHIN A SERVICE AREA  
14 THAT IS SPECIFIED BY A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER.

15 (3) "LOW-INCOME WORKER" MEANS A PERSON THAT MEETS THE  
16 POVERTY THRESHOLD THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
17 COMMERCE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FOR A GIVEN YEAR.

18 (4) "TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY  
19 THAT PROVIDES TRANSIT SERVICE TO MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL.

20 (B) (1) THERE IS A JOB ACCESS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO  
21 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS FOR JOB ACCESS PROJECTS.

22 (2) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF  
23 THIS SECTION AND SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN THE ANNUAL  
24 STATE BUDGET, THE SECRETARY SHALL MAKE GRANTS TO A TRANSPORTATION  
25 PROVIDER THAT:

26 (I) OPERATES A JOB ACCESS PROJECT THAT:

27 1. TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF  
28 LOW-INCOME WORKERS WITHIN THE AREA OF SERVICE DEFINED BY THE  
29 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER; AND

30 2. IS NOT RESTRICTED TO CLIENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICE  
31 AGENCIES;

32 (II) FILES A WRITTEN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN  
33 THE FORM AND DETAIL THE SECRETARY REQUIRES; AND

34 (III) RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM THE SECRETARY.

1 (3) BEFORE APPROVING AN APPLICATION FROM A TRANSPORTATION  
2 PROVIDER, THE SECRETARY SHALL CONSULT WITH THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF  
3 SOCIAL SERVICES.

4 (4) WHEN ALLOCATING FUNDS UNDER THE JOB ACCESS PROGRAM, THE  
5 SECRETARY SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO THE AREAS OF THE STATE THAT THE  
6 SECRETARY DETERMINES ARE MOST IN NEED OF A JOB ACCESS PROJECT.

7 (C) (1) A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES FUNDS FOR A  
8 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE UNDER THE JOB ACCESS PROGRAM SHALL EXPEND A  
9 MATCHING FUND OF AT LEAST 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROPOSED CAPITAL  
10 EXPENDITURE.

11 (2) A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES FUNDS FOR  
12 OPERATING EXPENDITURES UNDER THE JOB ACCESS PROGRAM SHALL EXPEND A  
13 MATCHING FUND OF AT LEAST 25% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROPOSED  
14 OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

15 (3) A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER SHALL USE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED  
16 UNDER THIS SECTION ONLY FOR THE ACQUISITION OR REPLACEMENT OF  
17 EQUIPMENT OR THE OPERATING COSTS OF A JOB ACCESS PROJECT.

18 (4) A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES A GRANT UNDER  
19 THIS SECTION SHALL CONSULT WITH THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
20 TO DETERMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF SERVING THE TRANSPORTATION  
21 NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME WORKERS IN THE PROPOSED SERVICE AREA.

22 (5) A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER SHALL COOPERATE WITH OTHER  
23 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS IN THE PROPOSED SERVICE AREA TO BEST SERVE THE  
24 TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME WORKERS.

25 (6) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A  
26 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER FROM:

27 (I) CONTRACTING WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC  
28 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS, OR PRIVATE CARRIERS FOR THE PROVISION OF  
29 TRANSPORTATION SERVICE TO LOW-INCOME WORKERS;

30 (II) MODIFYING OR EXPANDING AN EXISTING LOCAL  
31 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM;

32 (III) DEVELOPING A NEW TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WITH THE USE  
33 OR ASSISTANCE OF SUBSIDIZED VOLUNTEERS; OR

34 (IV) ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN LOW-INCOME WORKERS  
35 TO USE THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE JOB ACCESS PROJECT  
36 TO THE EXTENT EXCESS CAPACITY IS AVAILABLE.

1           (7)       EACH TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES A GRANT  
2 UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SECRETARY THAT DETAILS  
3 HOW THE GRANT WAS EXPENDED ON THE JOB ACCESS PROJECT.

4       (D)       (1)       THE SECRETARY SHALL ENCOURAGE A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER  
5 TO:

6                   (I)       CONTINUE TO MAXIMIZE USE OF EXISTING FUNDING  
7 PROGRAMS FOR A JOB ACCESS PROJECT; AND

8                   (II)       ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER LOCAL  
9 OR STATE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS.

10           (2)       THE SECRETARY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY  
11 TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

12       (E)       ANY FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED TO  
13 SUPPLEMENT AND SHALL NOT SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDS USED BY A  
14 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

15       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 July 1, 2001.