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

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2001 Assigned to: Rules Re-referred to: Budget and Taxation, February 7, 2001

Committee Report: Favorable Senate action: Adopted Read second time: March 7, 2001

CHAPTER_____

1 AN ACT concerning

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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;

and generally relating to a job access program.

1 BY adding to

- 2 Article Transportation
- 3 Section 2-103.6
- 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 5 (1993 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF7 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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Article - Transportation

9 2-103.6.

10(A)(1)IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS11INDICATED.

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

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

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

20 (3) "LOW-INCOME WORKER" MEANS A PERSON THAT MEETS THE 21 POVERTY THRESHOLD THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF 22 COMMERCE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FOR A GIVEN YEAR.

23 (4) "TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY 24 THAT PROVIDES TRANSIT SERVICE TO MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL.

25 (B) (1) THERE IS A JOB ACCESS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO 26 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS FOR JOB ACCESS PROJECTS.

27 (2) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF
28 THIS SECTION AND SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN THE ANNUAL
29 STATE BUDGET, THE SECRETARY SHALL MAKE GRANTS TO A TRANSPORTATION
30 PROVIDER THAT:

31

(I) OPERATES A JOB ACCESS PROJECT THAT:

TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF
 LOW-INCOME WORKERS WITHIN THE AREA OF SERVICE DEFINED BY THE
 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER; AND

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IS NOT RESTRICTED TO CLIENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICE

1 2 AGENCIES;

3 (II) FILES A WRITTEN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN 4 THE FORM AND DETAIL THE SECRETARY REQUIRES; AND

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(III) RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM THE SECRETARY.

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

9 (4) WHEN ALLOCATING FUNDS UNDER THE JOB ACCESS PROGRAM, THE 10 SECRETARY SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO THE AREAS OF THE STATE THAT THE 11 SECRETARY DETERMINES ARE MOST IN NEED OF A JOB ACCESS PROJECT.

12 (C) (1) A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES FUNDS FOR A
13 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE UNDER THE JOB ACCESS PROGRAM SHALL EXPEND A
14 MATCHING FUND OF AT LEAST 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROPOSED CAPITAL
15 EXPENDITURE.

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

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

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

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

30 (6) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A 31 TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER FROM:

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

35 (II) MODIFYING OR EXPANDING AN EXISTING LOCAL
 36 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM;

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1 2	(III) DEVELOPING A NEW TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WITH THE USE OR ASSISTANCE OF SUBSIDIZED VOLUNTEERS; OR
	(IV) ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN LOW-INCOME WORKERS TO USE THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE JOB ACCESS PROJECT TO THE EXTENT EXCESS CAPACITY IS AVAILABLE.
	(7) EACH TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SECRETARY THAT DETAILS HOW THE GRANT WAS EXPENDED ON THE JOB ACCESS PROJECT.
9 10	(D) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ENCOURAGE A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER TO:
11 12	(I) CONTINUE TO MAXIMIZE USE OF EXISTING FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR A JOB ACCESS PROJECT; AND
13 14	(II) ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER LOCAL OR STATE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS.
15 16	(2) THE SECRETARY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.
	(E) ANY FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT AND SHALL NOT SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDS USED BY A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.
20 21	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001.