
By: **Senator Bromwell**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2001

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority - Proposed Alteration of Tolls -**
3 **Legislative Review**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority to submit to the
5 Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly, for review and comment,
6 any proposed alteration of a toll to be charged for the use of certain
7 transportation facilities projects; prohibiting a proposed toll alteration from
8 taking effect until after a certain period of time; and generally relating to the
9 alteration of tolls by the Maryland Transportation Authority.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article - Transportation
12 Section 4-101(a), (b), and (i)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1993 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article - Transportation
17 Section 4-312
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1993 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

22 **Article - Transportation**

23 4-101.

24 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

25 (b) "Authority" means the Maryland Transportation Authority.

26 (i) "Transportation facilities project" includes:

1 (1) The Susquehanna River Bridge, the Harry W. Nice Memorial
2 Potomac River Bridge, the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Chesapeake Bay
3 Bridge and parallel Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, the
4 Francis Scott Key Bridge, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway, together with
5 their appurtenant causeways, approaches, interchanges, entrance plazas, toll
6 stations, and service facilities;

7 (2) Any other project for transportation facilities that the Authority
8 authorizes to be acquired or constructed; and

9 (3) Any additions, improvements, or enlargements to any of these
10 projects, whenever authorized.

11 4-312.

12 (a) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 20 of Section 3 and § 16 of
13 Section 4 of Chapter 608 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1976, tolls may be
14 continued to be charged on the John F. Kennedy Expressway and any project
15 constructed under the provisions of § 3 (bridge, tunnel, and motorway revenue bonds)
16 of Chapter 608 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1976.

17 (2) As to all or any part of any transportation facilities project, the
18 Authority may:

19 (i) Fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and
20 other charges and revenues for its use or for its services; and

21 (ii) Contract with any person who desires its use for any purpose
22 and fix the terms, conditions, rentals, rates, fees, tolls, or other charges or revenues
23 for this use.

24 (b) The rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and other charges and revenues designated
25 as security for any bonds issued under this subtitle shall be fixed and adjusted from
26 time to time, either with respect to a particular transportation facilities project or in
27 respect of the aggregate of the charges and revenues from other transportation
28 facilities projects under the control of the Authority, as may be specified by law or in
29 any applicable resolution or trust agreement, so as to provide funds that, together
30 with any other available revenues, are sufficient as long as the bonds are outstanding
31 and unpaid to:

32 (1) Pay the costs of maintaining, repairing, and operating the
33 transportation facilities project or projects financed in whole or in part by one or more
34 series of outstanding and unpaid bonds, to the extent that payment is not otherwise
35 provided;

36 (2) Pay the principal of and the interest on these bonds as they become
37 due and payable;

38 (3) Create reasonable reserves that are anticipated will be needed for
39 these purposes; and

1 (4) Provide funds for paying the cost of replacements, renewals, and
2 improvements.

3 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the rentals, rates,
4 fees, tolls, and other charges and revenues are not subject to supervision or regulation
5 by any instrumentality, agency, or unit of this State or any of its political subdivisions.

6 (2) This subtitle does not permit the exercise of any power or the
7 undertaking of any activity that would conflict with the provisions and limitations of
8 the federal Urban Mass Transit Act of 1964.

9 (3) Tolls for the use of the bridge carrying the John F. Kennedy Memorial
10 Highway over the Susquehanna River may not be less than the comparable tolls
11 charged for the use of the Susquehanna River Bridge.

12 (4) (I) BEFORE ALTERING ANY TOLL ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS
13 SECTION FOR THE USE OF A TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT, THE
14 AUTHORITY SHALL SUBMIT THE PROPOSED TOLL TO THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY
15 COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT.

16 (II) A PROPOSED ALTERATION OF A TOLL MAY NOT TAKE EFFECT
17 UNTIL AT LEAST 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE PROPOSED TOLL WAS
18 SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF
19 THIS PARAGRAPH.

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