

SENATE BILL 618

Unofficial Copy
R2

2002 Regular Session
2lr2676
CF HB 481

By: **Senators Hooper, Jacobs, and Baker**
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority - Tolls - Commuter Vehicles in**
3 **Combination with Towed Vehicle**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Transportation Authority from
5 charging, for a two-axle vehicle that is eligible for reduced tolls under a
6 commuter rate plan and that is towing another vehicle, a toll that exceeds the
7 sum of the reduced commuter rate plus a toll for the towed vehicle based on the
8 number of the towed vehicle's axles; and generally relating to tolls collected by
9 the Maryland Transportation Authority.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Transportation
12 Section 4-312
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2001 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article - Transportation**

18 4-312.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (2) This subtitle does not permit the exercise of any power or the
26 undertaking of any activity that would conflict with the provisions and limitations of
27 the federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964.

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

31 (4) IF A TWO-AXLE VEHICLE THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE CHARGED A
32 REDUCED TOLL UNDER A COMMUTER RATE PLAN FOR THE USE OF A
33 TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT IS TOWING ANOTHER VEHICLE, THE TOTAL
34 TOLL CHARGED BY THE AUTHORITY FOR THE COMBINATION OF VEHICLES MAY NOT
35 EXCEED THE SUM OF:

36 (I) THE COMMUTER RATE FOR A TWO-AXLE VEHICLE; AND

37 (II) THE TOLL OTHERWISE APPLICABLE TO THE TOWED VEHICLE
38 BASED ON THE NUMBER OF THE TOWED VEHICLE'S AXLES.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2002.