
By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a commission to study certain issues related to
4 transportation in certain areas of the State; providing for the membership and
5 staffing of the commission; requiring the commission to study certain
6 transportation issues and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on
7 or before a certain date; requiring the commission to make recommendations
8 with regard to certain aspects of transportation in certain areas of the State;
9 prohibiting members of the commission from receiving certain compensation but
10 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to a commission to study
12 transportation in certain areas of the State.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) There is a Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Southern Maryland
16 Transportation Needs.

17 (b) The Commission consists of the following 15 members:

18 (1) the President of the Senate of Maryland, or the President's designee;

19 (2) the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or the Speaker's designee;

20 (3) the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, or the
21 Secretary's designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, or the
23 Secretary's designee;

24 (5) the representative to the U.S. Congress from the 5th district of
25 Maryland, or the representative's designee;

26 (6) one county commissioner from St. Mary's County selected by the St.
27 Mary's County Commissioners;

1 (7) one county commissioner from Charles County selected by the
2 Charles County Commissioners; and

3 (8) the two senators and six delegates representing State legislative
4 districts 28 and 29.

5 (c) The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman of the
6 Commission at its first meeting.

7 (d) The State agencies represented on the Commission shall provide staff for
8 the Commission.

9 (e) A member of the Commission:

10 (1) may not receive compensation; but

11 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
12 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

13 (f) The Commission shall:

14 (1) review the study prepared by the Maryland Department of
15 Transportation regarding mass transit in Southern Maryland under Chapter 594,
16 Acts of 1998;

17 (2) study the Southern Maryland Commuter Rail plan;

18 (3) study the current and future impact of traffic congestion in Southern
19 Maryland, including traffic levels on roads including U.S. Route 301 and Maryland
20 routes 2/4, 5, 210, 228, 235, and 260;

21 (4) make recommendations on potential strategies, including roadway
22 improvements, mass transit, and commuter rail options, to reduce traffic congestion
23 on the roads specified in item (3) of this subsection and throughout the Southern
24 Maryland region;

25 (5) study and make recommendations regarding the amount of funding
26 necessary to implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland;

27 (6) assess the barriers to implementing roadway improvements, mass
28 transit, and commuter rail service in Southern Maryland and make recommendations
29 to address those barriers; and

30 (7) make recommendations for potential funding mechanisms to
31 implement traffic reduction strategies in Southern Maryland.

32 (g) The Commission may:

33 (1) conduct site visits to view commuter rail transportation systems in
34 western and central Maryland;

1 (2) request information from representatives of CSX Corporation
2 relating to existing heavy rail lines in Southern Maryland;

3 (3) include in its study those communities in Prince George's County
4 that lie directly adjacent to St. Mary's and Charles counties and which might be
5 impacted by the Commission's recommendations; and

6 (4) hold public hearings to receive comments from interested parties.

7 (h) The Commission shall report its final findings and recommendations to
8 the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General
9 Assembly on or before November 1, 2004.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
12 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
13 abrogated and of no further force and effect.