
By: **Senator Pipkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2006

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority - Chesapeake Bay Bridge - Tolls**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority to temporarily
4 stop collecting tolls for the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge
5 (Chesapeake Bay Bridge) under certain congested traffic conditions; requiring
6 the Authority to resume collecting tolls when certain congested traffic conditions
7 no longer exist; requiring the Authority to take certain action to obtain a
8 necessary modification of a certain trust agreement; and generally relating to a
9 requirement that the Authority stop collecting tolls for the William Preston
10 Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge under certain traffic conditions.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Transportation
13 Section 4-312(c)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Transportation**

19 4-312.

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

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

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

1 (4) Prior to fixing or revising tolls on any part of any transportation
2 facilities project, the Authority shall provide, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
3 Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance
4 Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Ways and Means
5 Committee information on the proposed toll charges, including:

6 (i) The annual revenues generated by the toll charges;

7 (ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and

8 (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

9 (5) (I) THE AUTHORITY SHALL TEMPORARILY STOP COLLECTING
10 TOLLS FOR THE WILLIAM PRESTON LANE, JR. MEMORIAL BRIDGE (CHESAPEAKE BAY
11 BRIDGE) IF THE AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT VEHICULAR TRAFFIC APPROACHING
12 THE BRIDGE IS SO CONGESTED THAT EASTBOUND VEHICLES ARE WAITING 30
13 MINUTES OR LONGER TO CROSS THE BRIDGE.

14 (II) IF THE AUTHORITY STOPS COLLECTING TOLLS UNDER
15 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE AUTHORITY SHALL RESUME
16 COLLECTING TOLLS WHEN THE AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT THE TRAFFIC
17 CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH ARE NO
18 LONGER PRESENT.

19 (III) IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
20 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE AUTHORITY SHALL TAKE WHATEVER
21 ACTION MAY BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A MODIFICATION OF ANY TRUST
22 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY AND A CORPORATE TRUSTEE THAT
23 SECURES REVENUE BONDS FOR THE BRIDGE.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
25 effect October 1, 2006.