

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 827
Finance

(Senators Gladden and Hughes)

Baltimore Metropolitan Transit District Advisory Council - Establishment

This bill establishes a 13-member Baltimore Metropolitan Transit District Advisory Council, staffed by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Staffing for the council and additional council expenses could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. It is assumed that local agencies could comply with requests for information with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: All members must be regular transit users who are residents of specified jurisdictions. The members are to be appointed by the mayor or county executive of their county of residence:

- six from Baltimore City;
- three from Baltimore County;
- two from Anne Arundel County;

- one from Harford County; and
- one from Howard County.

Except under specified circumstances, members are to serve a two-year term. Members do not receive compensation. State and local agencies must comply with any reasonable request for information or documentation. The advisory council must study, investigate, monitor, and make recommendations to MTA about rail and bus transit in the Baltimore Metropolitan Transit District.

Current Law: MTA has jurisdiction over planning, developing, acquiring, financing, and operating certain transit facilities, including the Baltimore mass transit system. MTA may not establish or abandon any route without a public hearing. In addition, MTA must prepare plans to meet the transit needs of the Metropolitan Transit District, which must include the transit facilities to be established, the areas to be served, and the type of equipment to be used. MTA must maintain a copy of the proposed plan for public viewing and hold one public hearing. MTA must consider evidence and commentary presented at the hearing.

State Expenditures: MTA advises that staffing for the council would necessitate hiring one grade 20 position. The Department of Legislative Services advises that staffing the council and any incidental expenses related to the council could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1307 (Delegate Marriot, *et al.*) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Harford County, Howard County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2006
ncs/ljm

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