

CHAPTER 268

(House Bill 1189)

AN ACT concerning

Transportation – Maryland Senior Rides Program – ~~Repeal of Grant~~ Limitations

FOR the purpose of altering the name of a certain program to be the Maryland Senior Rides Program; repealing certain caps on the annual and total number of grants that a participant in the Maryland Senior Rides Program may receive; altering a certain cap on the total dollar amount of grants that the Maryland Transit Administration may award annually under the Program; ~~repealing certain caps on the total dollar amount and a certain cap on the dollar amount per applicant that the Maryland Transit Administration may award annually under the Program~~; repealing a certain cap on the dollar amount that the Administration may award annually under the Program for use in certain regions of the State; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to ~~the repeal of~~ certain grant limitations for the Maryland Senior Rides Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 7–1001(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2001 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 7–1001(d), 7–1002, and 7–1003 to be under the amended subtitle
“Subtitle 10. Maryland Senior Rides Program”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2001 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

Subtitle 10. Maryland Senior Rides [Demonstration] Program.

7-1001.

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

(d) “Program” means the Maryland Senior Rides [Demonstration] Program established under this subtitle.

7-1002.

(a) There is a Maryland Senior Rides [Demonstration] Program in the Administration.

(b) The purpose of the Program is to encourage regional providers to provide door-to-door transportation for low-income to moderate-income seniors.

(c) The Administration shall award grants to qualified Program applicants, as provided in § 7-1003 of this subtitle, for the operation of transportation services as specified in this section.

(d) To be eligible for a grant under § 7-1003 of this subtitle, a Program applicant shall:

(1) Provide door-to-door transportation for low-income to moderate-income seniors who have difficulty accessing or using other existing transportation systems;

(2) Use primarily volunteer drivers who drive their own vehicles;

(3) Use a dispatcher system to respond quickly to requests from low-income to moderate-income seniors for door-to-door transportation; and

(4) Define a geographic area for which door-to-door transportation is provided.

(e) A Program participant may provide door-to-door transportation to an eligible senior who does not reside in the geographic area defined by the Program participant under subsection (d)(4) of this section when applying to participate in the Program, so long as service is not diminished to an eligible senior who does reside in the defined geographic area.

(f) A Program participant shall expend a matching fund of at least 25% of the total capital or operating costs associated with providing door-to-door transportation for low-income to moderate-income seniors.

(g) ~~[(1) A Program participant may not receive more than one grant annually and may not receive a total of more than four grants.]~~

~~(2)~~ The Administration may not award more than ~~\$400,000~~ \$500,000 in grants per year.

~~(h)~~ A Program participant may charge reasonable fees for door-to-door transportation provided by the Program participant.

~~[(i)]~~ ~~(H)~~ Nothing in this section prohibits a Program participant from providing services in addition to those described in subsection (d) of this section.

7-1003.

The Administration shall:

- (1) Solicit grant applications from prospective Program applicants;
- (2) [Subject to the limitations in § 7-1002(g) of this subtitle, award grants of up to \$100,000 each] **AWARD GRANTS** to qualified Program applicants;
- (3) Ensure that the grants awarded under item (2) of this section are distributed among Program applicants to provide door-to-door transportation in the following areas [with no area receiving grants totaling more than \$100,000 per year]:
 - (i) The Baltimore Metropolitan Area;
 - (ii) The Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area;
 - (iii) Western Maryland;
 - (iv) Southern Maryland; and
 - (v) The Eastern Shore; and
- (4) Ensure, to the extent practicable, that at least one grant is awarded to Program applicants to provide door-to-door transportation in each of the following areas:

- (i) A rural area;
- (ii) An urban area; and
- (iii) A suburban area.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2007.