

CHAPTER 332

(Senate Bill 461)

AN ACT concerning

Labor and Employment – Maryland Workforce Investment Act – Transit Service for Low-Income Individuals

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Transportation to ~~provide certain transit service to certain individuals who are engaged in an employment and training program under the Maryland Workforce Investment Act; requiring the State Human Resource Investment Council to reimburse the Department of Transportation for the cost of certain transit service to certain individuals~~ issue certain transit passes in a certain form to certain training organizations; requiring training organizations to provide certain transit passes to certain individuals; requiring transit organizations to include a certain travel reimbursement provision in a certain contract for certain eligibility purposes; defining a certain term; and generally relating to transit service for low-income individuals participating in a certain employment and training program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 11–502 and 11–504
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1999 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 11–503(c) and (m)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1999 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 11–503(n)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1999 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation~~

~~Section 7-101(d) and (m)
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 – Labor and Employment

11-502.

(a) It is State policy to coordinate all the resources available from federal, State and local governments, business, labor, and community based organizations to foster and promote a balanced, equitable, and cost-effective employment and training system. To effectuate this policy there shall be consultation between the Governor and the General Assembly in implementing the federal Workforce Investment Act and this subtitle.

(b) It is the State's goal to assist its citizens in obtaining gainful employment and in reducing dependence on public assistance and unemployment insurance programs by:

(1) preparing unskilled youth and adults who are economically disadvantaged for entry into the work force;

(2) retraining those who have lost jobs or who must upgrade or replace their work skills or both; and

(3) providing training and related services, **INCLUDING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS**, to increase the employability of those who encounter barriers to employment.

(c) It is also the State's goal to develop a well trained productive work force which meets the needs of a changing economy by:

(1) developing and ensuring maximum utilization of timely statewide labor market information;

(2) linking employment and training services with economic development efforts;

(3) providing enhanced employment and training capabilities specially designed to meet the needs of business and industry, including industries that utilize advanced technology applications; and

(4) encouraging and initiating innovative employment and training strategies.

11-503.

(c) "Low-income individual" means an individual who:

(1) receives, or is a member of a family which receives, cash welfare payments under a federal, State, or local income-based public assistance program;

(2) received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income for the 6-month period prior to application for the program involved (exclusive of unemployment compensation, child support payments, payments described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, and old age and survivors insurance benefits received under Section 202 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 402)) that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of:

(i) the poverty level for an equivalent period; or

(ii) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level for an equivalent period;

(3) is a member of a household that receives food stamps or has been determined within the 6-month period prior to application for the program involved to be eligible to receive food stamps pursuant to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq.);

(4) is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made;

(5) in cases permitted by regulations promulgated by the Secretary, is an adult individual with a disability whose own income meets the requirements of a program described in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection, but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet such requirements; or

(6) qualifies as a homeless individual, as defined in subsections (a) and (c) of § 103 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11302).

(m) “Supportive services” means services such as transportation, child care, dependent care, housing, and needs-related payments that are necessary to enable an individual to participate in activities authorized under the federal Act, consistent with the federal Act.

(N) “TRAINING ORGANIZATION” MEANS AN ENTITY THAT PROVIDES TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED IN § 11-504(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

11-504.

(a) A workforce investment training program is established to implement the federal Act.

(b) (1) This program shall provide employment, training, supportive and related services for unemployed individuals who are low income, for dislocated workers, and for those who are not low income, but who qualify under the federal Act as having barriers to employment, including, but not limited to, displaced homemakers, school dropouts, teenage parents, individuals with disabilities, older workers, veterans, and other participants as defined by the federal Act.

~~(2) (I) THE SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL PROVIDE TRANSIT SERVICE, AS DEFINED UNDER § 7-101 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE, AT NO CHARGE TO ANY LOW INCOME INDIVIDUAL WHILE THE INDIVIDUAL IS ENGAGED IN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES UNDER THIS PROGRAM.~~

~~(II) THE STATE COUNCIL SHALL REIMBURSE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE COST OF TRANSIT SERVICE PROVIDED TO A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH TO THE EXTENT THE STATE COUNCIL RECEIVES FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS. ISSUE TO TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS WEEKLY TRANSIT PASSES, IN THE FORM OF MAGNETIC PASSES OR LOADED SMART CARDS, FOR LOCAL BUS, LIGHT RAIL, OR METRO SUBWAY SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION.~~

(II) THE TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS SHALL PROVIDE THE WEEKLY TRANSIT PASSES ISSUED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH TO INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

SERVICES UNDER THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

(III) A TRAINING ORGANIZATION SHALL REIMBURSE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE COST OF TRANSIT PASSES PROVIDED TO THE TRAINING ORGANIZATION UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.

(IV) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE TRANSIT PASSES UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, A TRAINING ORGANIZATION SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS CONTRACT WITH THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OR LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY A PROVISION REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT OF THE TRAINING ORGANIZATION FOR ITS COSTS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(c) The County Commissioners of Carroll County may appropriate funds necessary to enter into contracts with private or public enterprises for the training or retraining of workers of those enterprises.

~~Article Transportation~~

~~7-101.~~

~~(d) "District" means:~~

~~(1) The Metropolitan Transit District, consisting of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, and other areas as designated by the Secretary after consultation and coordination with the affected jurisdiction and subject to the provisions of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Compact; and~~

~~(2) Any area in which railroad service is performed under contract with the Administration or in which railroad facilities are owned by the Administration.~~

~~(m) (1) "Transit service" means the transportation of persons and their packages and baggage and of newspapers, express, and mail in regular route, special, or charter service by means of transit facilities between points within the District.~~

~~(2) "Transit service" does not include any:~~

~~(i) Taxicab service;~~

~~(ii) Vanpool operation; or~~

~~(iii) Railroad service.~~

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

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.