

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 439
Finance

(Senator Pugh, et al.) (By Request)

**Maryland Transit Administration - Baltimore Metropolitan Transit District
Advisory Council**

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

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Staffing for the council and additional council expenses could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: 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, as appropriate:

- 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 serve a two-year term. Members do not receive compensation but may be reimbursed for expenditures under standard State travel regulations. 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.

Background: MTA maintains several advisory councils, including the Citizen's Advisory Committee, the Consumer Advisory Council on Accessible Transportation, and the MARC Riders Advisory Council.

In addition, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) is an organization of the elected executives of Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has a seat on BRTB. According to Howard County, BRTB regularly hears and responds to the transit riding public's concern and works with MDOT to address these concerns. MTA is required to prepare its transit plans coordination with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council; BRTB is a division of the council.

State Expenditures: MTA advises that staffing the council could be handled with existing resources. Any minimal expenses for travel and meal reimbursement could be handled with existing resources. It is assumed that the council would use existing MTA resources and studies to study, investigate, monitor, and make recommendations on Baltimore transit.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Substantially similar bills, SB 827 and HB 1307, were introduced in 2006. SB 827 was heard by the Senate Finance Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 1307 was heard by the House Environmental Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: HB 874 (Delegate Haynes, *et. al.*) – Environmental Matters.

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

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ncs/ljm

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