

# HOUSE BILL 562

R2

8lr1585

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By: **Delegate George**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Rail Transportation Between Annapolis and the**  
3 **Washington and Baltimore Areas – Feasibility Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Transportation to study options for  
5 providing rail transportation between greater Annapolis and the Washington,  
6 D.C., and Baltimore metropolitan areas and to report its findings and  
7 recommendations by a certain date; requiring the Department to use existing  
8 resources to conduct the study and to make findings and recommendations;  
9 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study of  
10 rail transportation between greater Annapolis and the Washington and  
11 Baltimore metropolitan areas.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, The traffic volume between greater Annapolis and the Washington,  
14 D.C., metropolitan area continues to increase significantly, with average daily traffic  
15 on U.S. Route 50 between Maryland Route 665 and I-97 having increased from  
16 148,375 vehicles in 2000 to 153,480 vehicles in 2006; and

17 WHEREAS, More than 10 percent of the workers residing in the greater  
18 Annapolis area commute to the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area to work while,  
19 conversely, more than 4 percent of the workers in the greater Annapolis area reside in  
20 and commute from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area to the greater Annapolis  
21 area; and

22 WHEREAS, More than 6 percent of the workers residing in the greater  
23 Annapolis area commute to the Baltimore metropolitan area to work while, conversely,  
24 almost 8 percent of the workers in the greater Annapolis area reside in and commute  
25 from the Baltimore metropolitan area to the greater Annapolis area; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Based on U.S. census data, Annapolis is part of the Baltimore  
2 metropolitan area as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget; and

3 WHEREAS, Transportation planning funding for the greater Annapolis area  
4 flows through the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) while planning  
5 funding for the Washington metropolitan area flows through the Washington Council  
6 of Governments (WASHCOG), thus complicating the possible funding of projects like a  
7 rail transit line between the greater Annapolis area and the Washington, D.C.,  
8 metropolitan area; and

9 WHEREAS, Neither WASHCOG nor BRTB currently are undertaking or  
10 considering any significant studies of rail transportation links between the greater  
11 Annapolis area and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area; now, therefore,

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) The Maryland Department of Transportation shall undertake a study to  
15 assess options to provide rail transportation between the greater Annapolis area and  
16 the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore metropolitan areas, including an evaluation of  
17 the costs, benefits, and feasibility of designing and constructing one or more rail links  
18 between Annapolis and:

19 (1) the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) rail  
20 system with possible connections to the Metro's Orange and Blue lines;

21 (2) the Baltimore light rail transit system; and

22 (3) the Maryland Rail Commuter (MARC) train.

23 (b) On or before December 1, 2009, the Maryland Department of  
24 Transportation shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in  
25 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland  
27 Department of Transportation shall use existing resources to conduct the study and  
28 make findings and recommendations as specified under Section 1 of this Act.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the  
31 end of December 31, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
32 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.