

SENATE BILL 47

R2

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By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2008

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Feasibility Study of Rail Transit Service for Annapolis**

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

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, Traffic in the West Street corridor of Annapolis already is
14 excessively congested and population density in that area continues to increase with
15 the construction of many new developments, including Park Place and 1901 West
16 Street; and

17 WHEREAS, For a number of years in the early 20th century — from 1908 until
18 1935 — an Annapolis trolley rail system was located, in part, along West Street; and

19 WHEREAS, Technology now exists that better enables light rail trains to share
20 more effectively and safely street rights-of-way with vehicular traffic; and

21 WHEREAS, Light rail trains that allow easier ground level access for both
22 able-bodied and disabled riders also are now commercially available; and

23 WHEREAS, The traffic volume between greater Annapolis and the Washington,
24 D.C. metropolitan area continues to increase significantly, with average daily traffic

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 on U.S. Route 50 between Maryland Route 685 and I-97 having increased from
2 148,375 vehicles in 2000 to 153,480 vehicles in 2006; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 10 percent of the workers residing in the greater
4 Annapolis area commute to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area to work while,
5 conversely, more than four percent of the workers in the greater Annapolis area
6 reside in and commute from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area to the greater
7 Annapolis area; and

8 WHEREAS, More than six percent of the workers residing in the greater
9 Annapolis area commute to the Baltimore metropolitan area to work while, conversely,
10 almost eight percent of the workers in the greater Annapolis area reside in and
11 commute from the Baltimore metropolitan area to the greater Annapolis area; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Transportation planning funding for the greater Annapolis area
15 flows through the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) while planning
16 funding for the Washington metropolitan area flows through the Washington Council
17 of Governments (WASHCOG), thus complicating the possible funding of projects like a
18 rail transit line between the greater Annapolis area and the Washington, D.C.
19 metropolitan area; and

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

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That:

25 (a) The Maryland Department of Transportation shall undertake a study to:

26 (1) consider the feasibility of funding and constructing light rail
27 transit facilities in the West Street corridor of Annapolis between the Historic District
28 of Annapolis and the Town Center at Parole; and

29 (2) assess options to provide rail transportation between the greater
30 Annapolis area and the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore metropolitan areas, including
31 an evaluation of the costs, benefits, and feasibility of designing and constructing one or
32 more rail links between Annapolis and:

33 (i) the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
34 (Metro) rail system with possible connections to the Metro's Orange and Blue lines;

35 (ii) the Baltimore light rail transit system; and

36 (iii) the Maryland Rail Commuter (MARC) train.

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

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

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