

SENATE BILL 200

R2

8lr1558

By: **Senators Dyson and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2008

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Commission to Study Southern Maryland
4 Transportation Needs to reconvene for certain purposes; altering the date by
5 which the Commission is required to report its findings and recommendations to
6 the Governor and the General Assembly; altering the date for the termination of
7 certain provisions of law; and generally relating to the Commission to Study
8 Southern Maryland Transportation Needs.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Chapter 14 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006
11 Section 1 and 2

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

14 **Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2006**

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That:

17 (a) There is a Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation
18 Needs.

19 (b) The Commission consists of the following 21 members:

20 (1) the President of the Senate of Maryland, or the President's
21 designee;

22 (2) the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or the Speaker's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's
3 designee;

4 (5) the representative to the U.S. Congress from the 5th district of
5 Maryland, or the representative's designee;

6 (6) one county commissioner from St. Mary's County selected by the
7 St. Mary's County Commissioners;

8 (7) one county commissioner from Charles County selected by the
9 Charles County Commissioners;

10 (8) one county commissioner from Calvert County selected by the
11 Calvert County Commissioners;

12 (9) one member of the Prince George's County Council selected by the
13 Prince George's County Council;

14 (10) one member of the Anne Arundel County Council selected by the
15 Anne Arundel County Council;

16 (11) the three senators and seven delegates representing State
17 legislative districts 28 and 29 and sub-district 27B; and

18 (12) one representative of the private sector who specializes in bus
19 rapid transit.

20 (c) The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman of the
21 Commission at its first meeting.

22 (d) The Commission shall coordinate with the Tri-County Council's Regional
23 Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

24 (e) (1) The State agencies represented on the Commission shall provide
25 staff for the Commission.

26 (2) The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland shall provide
27 technical and staff support for the Commission.

28 (f) A member of the Commission:

29 (1) may not receive compensation; but

30 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
31 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (g) The Commission shall:

2 (1) review the study prepared by the Maryland Department of
3 Transportation regarding mass transit in Southern Maryland under Chapter 594, Acts
4 of 1998, the Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Strategy, the MD 5/U.S. 301
5 Transit Service Staging Plan, and any other relevant mass transit studies and plans;

6 (2) study the Southern Maryland rail transit alternatives, including a
7 light rail transit system in the Maryland Route 5 corridor from White Plains to Branch
8 Avenue;

9 (3) study the current and future impact of traffic congestion in
10 Southern Maryland, including traffic levels on roads including U.S. Route 301 and
11 Maryland Routes 2/4, 4, 5, 210, 228, 231, 235, and 260;

12 (4) make recommendations on potential strategies, including roadway
13 improvements and mass transit, including light rail transit to reduce traffic congestion
14 on the roads specified in item (3) of this subsection and throughout the Southern
15 Maryland region;

16 (5) study and make recommendations regarding the amount of
17 funding necessary to implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern
18 Maryland;

19 (6) assess the barriers to implementing roadway improvements and
20 mass transit, including light rail service, in Southern Maryland and make
21 recommendations to address those barriers; and

22 (7) make recommendations for potential funding mechanisms to
23 implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland.

24 (h) The Commission may:

25 (1) conduct site visits to view rail transportation systems in Maryland;

26 (2) request information from representatives of CSX Corporation
27 relating to existing rail lines in Southern Maryland;

28 (3) include in its study those communities in Prince George's County
29 that lie directly adjacent to St. Mary's and Charles counties and which might be
30 impacted by the Commission's recommendations;

31 (4) include in its study those communities in Anne Arundel County
32 that lie directly adjacent to Calvert County and which might be impacted by the
33 Commission's recommendations; [and]

1 (5) hold public hearings to receive comments from interested parties;

2 **AND**

3 (6) **ELECT TO RECONVENE TO STUDY AND MAKE ALTERATIONS TO**
4 **DRAFTS OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO STUDY ITS FINDINGS.**

5 (i) The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
6 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General
7 Assembly on or before [November 1, 2006] **JUNE 30, 2008.**

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] **4** years and, at the end of June
10 30, [2007] **2009**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
11 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 June 1, 2008.