

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 324

(Senator Forehand)

(Chair, Joint Committee on Federal Relations)

Finance

Environmental Matters

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission - Appointment of Virginia Member

This bill changes the Virginia agency from which the Virginia member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission is appointed, from the State Corporation Commission to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008, but may not take effect until the District of Columbia and Virginia have enacted similar laws.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission was established in 1961 to regulate the commercial transportation of passengers in the Washington, DC Metropolitan District. The commission was created by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact, an agreement among Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. Maryland ratified the compact in 1959 (Chapter 613 of 1959). Amended by Maryland in its entirety in 1988, the revised compact became effective in

February 1991 after ratification by Virginia and the District of Columbia (Chapter 273 of 1988).

Fares, regulations, and practices of transportation companies and interstate taxicabs in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit District are set by the commission. Created by the compact, the district embraces the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince George's counties, Maryland; the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, Virginia; and Arlington and Fairfax counties, Virginia.

The commission has three members. One is named by the Governor of Maryland from the Maryland Public Service Commission. The Governor of Virginia also appoints one from the Virginia State Corporation Commission, and one is chosen by the Mayor of the District of Columbia from the District Public Service Commission. Each member's term coincides with the term of office in the agency from which the member is selected. Commission expenses are allocated annually in proportion to the population of each signatory in the metropolitan district. Maryland's share in fiscal 2008 is 47.6%, or \$337,960.

Background: Virginia has adopted legislation providing for the membership change. To date, the District of Columbia has not adopted such legislation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 739 (Delegate Heller, *et al.*) (Chair, Joint Committee on Federal Relations) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland State Archives, Public Service Commission, Department of Legislative Services

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