

SENATE BILL 723

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CF HB 492

By: **Senator Madaleno**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Commuter Rail Governance and Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Commuter Rail Governance and
4 Funding to examine the needs and funding for commuter rail in Maryland;
5 requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Commission; providing for
6 the membership and staffing of the Commission; prohibiting members of the
7 Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
8 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to report its
9 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
10 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
11 relating to the Commission on Commuter Rail Governance and Funding.

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

14 (a) There is a Commission on Commuter Rail Governance and Funding.

15 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

16 (1) Four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
17 of the House;

18 (2) Four members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
19 President of the Senate; and

20 (3) The following members appointed by the Governor:

21 (i) The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (ii) The Administrator of the Maryland Transit Administration,
23 or the Administrator's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(iii) The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

(iv) A representative of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;

(v) Two representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties;

(vi) Two representatives of the Maryland Municipal League;

(vii) Four members from the general public; and

(viii) Five ex officio nonvoting members as follows:

1. One representative from West Virginia;

2. One representative from Washington, D.C.;

3. One representative from Delaware; and

4. Two representatives from Virginia.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission after consultation with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

(d) To the extent practicable, the presiding officers and the Governor shall attempt to ensure that the Commission:

(1) Encompasses regional, economic, ethnic, and gender diversity; and

(2) Includes members who possess expertise in transportation policy and finances.

(e) The Department of Transportation and the Department of Budget and Management shall provide staff support for the Commission.

(f) A member of the Commission:

(1) May not receive compensation; but

(2) Is entitled to reimbursement of expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(g) The Commission shall examine commuter rail needs in the State and region and receive input from commuter rail users, other members of the public, and consultants on the state of commuter rail in the State and region.

1 (h) On or before January 1, 2010, the Commission shall report its findings
2 and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State
3 Government Article, the General Assembly, including information on:

4 (1) The governance structure and experience of entities in Maryland
5 that provide commuter rail service as contrasted with the governance structure,
6 experience, and best practices of entities in other jurisdictions throughout the United
7 States and in other countries that provide these services, including any changes in
8 governance structure that should be considered for Maryland;

9 (2) Options about how best to implement and deliver quality
10 commuter rail service within Maryland and service run through Maryland, the
11 District of Columbia, and Virginia;

12 (3) The magnitude of system preservation and unmet commuter rail
13 needs that must be funded if the State is to enhance and maintain a viable commuter
14 rail system that adequately and efficiently serves State and regional residents, fosters
15 strong communities, and stimulates business and economic development;

16 (4) The appropriate level of funding necessary to support a viable
17 commuter rail system in the State and region that is within the abilities of State and
18 regional transportation personnel to administer; and

19 (5) The development of a comprehensive, long-term solution that
20 generates revenues sufficient to maintain a viable commuter rail system in the State
21 and region.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 July 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
24 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.