

SENATE BILL 866

R1

9lr2942
CF HB 1375

By: **Senator Pipkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: April 4, 2009

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Commission to Study the Impact of Large Truck Traffic on the Chesapeake~~
3 ~~Bay Bridge~~
4 Chesapeake Bay Bridge – Required Study

5 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing a Commission to Study the Impact of Large Truck~~
6 ~~Traffic on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; providing for the membership and~~
7 ~~staffing of the Commission; requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the~~
8 ~~Commission; prohibiting members of the Commission from receiving certain~~
9 ~~compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;~~
10 ~~requiring the Commission to study certain matters and to report its findings~~
11 ~~and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a~~
12 ~~certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to~~
13 ~~the Commission to Study the Impact of Large Truck Traffic on~~ requiring the
14 Maryland Transportation Authority, in consultation with certain groups, to
15 conduct a certain study; requiring the Authority to report on its findings to the
16 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally
17 relating to a study regarding the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That:

20 (a) ~~There is a Commission to Study the Impact of Large Truck Traffic on the~~
21 ~~Chesapeake Bay Bridge.~~

22 (b) ~~The Commission consists of the following members:~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~(1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;~~

~~(2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and~~

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

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

~~(ii) A representative of the Maryland Transportation Authority Board;~~

~~(iii) A member of the Maryland Motor Truck Association;~~

~~(iv) A member of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Citizens' Advisory Board;~~

~~(v) A representative of the Maryland Association of Counties; and~~

~~(vi) Four members from the general public.~~

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

~~(d) The Department of Transportation shall provide staff support for the Commission.~~

~~(e) A member of the Commission:~~

~~(1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but~~

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

~~(f) The Commission shall examine and make findings and recommendations on issues relating to large truck traffic on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, including:~~

~~(1) The current impact of large truck traffic on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and safety for drivers of two-axle vehicles;~~

~~(2) The impact of projected future growth in large truck traffic on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and safety for drivers of two-axle vehicles;~~

~~(3) The impact of banning large truck traffic on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge at all times or during certain times of the day;~~

~~(4) The viability and likely effect of instituting a variable toll pricing policy to incentivize large truck users to travel the Chesapeake Bay Bridge during times of the day when traffic flow is likely to be less dense;~~

~~(5) The impact of the Commission's recommendations on projected traffic flow on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and on surrounding highways and the efficacy of current safety measures; and~~

~~(6) The cost of the Commission's recommendations to the trucking industry and drivers of two-axle vehicles.~~

(a) The Maryland Transportation Authority, in consultation with the Maryland Motor Truck Association and the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group, shall conduct a study that includes the following:

(1) a historical review of the utilization of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge by vehicles of various classes;

(2) a historical review of accident data on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge by class of vehicle;

(3) a review of utilization of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge by large vehicles at various times of the day and days of the week;

(4) a comparison of the volume of large truck traffic on bridges similar to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in other parts of the country at various times of the day and days of the week; and

(5) the impact that variable toll pricing for large vehicles has had on existing toll facilities nationally and on the volume of large vehicle traffic at various times of the day.

~~(e)~~ (b) On or before January 1, 2010, the ~~Commission~~ Authority shall report its findings ~~and recommendations~~ to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

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