

## CHAPTER 507

(Senate Bill 60)

AN ACT concerning

### **Maryland Transit Administration – Mass Transit Service Alterations – Public Service Commission and People’s Counsel Reporting and Representation Requirements**

FOR the purpose of repealing a requirement that the People’s Counsel to the Public Service Commission appear and represent the public interest at certain public hearings; repealing a requirement that the Maryland Transit Administration refer certain matters to the Public Service Commission and the People’s Counsel to the Commission for consideration and recommendations prior to holding certain public hearings; repealing a requirement that the Commission and the People’s Counsel submit certain reports to the Administration relating to mass transit; making conforming changes; and generally relating to reporting requirements of the Public Service Commission and the People’s Counsel relating to mass transit.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 7–506(a)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 7–506(e)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing  
Article – Transportation  
Section 7–506(f) and 7–507  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume)

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

#### **Article – Transportation**

7–506.

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, until a public hearing is held on the matter, the Administration may not:

- (i) Fix or revise any fare or rate charged the general public;
- (ii) Establish or abandon any bus or rail route listed on a published timetable;
- (iii) Change a bus or rail route alignment listed on a published timetable, unless the change is needed because of temporary construction or changes in the road network; or
- (iv) Establish or abandon a rail transit station.

(e) Before calling a hearing under this section, the Administration shall file at its main office and make available for public inspection:

- (1) Its report on the subject matter of the hearing; **AND**
- (2) [Any report received from the Public Service Commission under § 7-507 of this subtitle; and
- (3)] If the hearing was requested under subsection (c) of this section, the written request for the hearing and all documents filed in support of it.

[(f) The People's Counsel shall appear and represent the public interest at each hearing called by the Administration under this section.]

[7-507.

(a) Except for temporary or emergency changes in matters affecting service, the Administration shall refer to the Public Service Commission and the People's Counsel to the Public Service Commission, for consideration and recommendations before any hearing held under § 7-506 of this subtitle:

- (1) Any matter that the Administration considers might affect the operation of the publicly and privately owned or controlled transit facilities as a coordinated regional transit system; and
- (2) Any matter on which the Administration has called a hearing under § 7-506 of this subtitle.

(b) (1) The Public Service Commission shall give a matter referred to it under this section preference over any other matters pending before it and, as soon as possible, shall prepare and send its report on the matter to the Administration. If the

People's Counsel to the Public Service Commission does not adopt the report of the Public Service Commission, he may file a separate report at the time that the report of the Public Service Commission is filed.

(2) The Administration may request the Public Service Commission or the People's Counsel to reconsider any part of its report or to make any supplemental report that the Administration considers necessary.

(3) All of these reports are advisory only.

(c) Any report that the Public Service Commission or the People's Counsel submits to the Administration shall consider, among other things:

(1) The impact on the revenues of both public and private transit facilities; and

(2) The probable effect of the referred matter on:

(i) The operation of the publicly and privately owned or controlled transit facilities as a coordinated regional system;

(ii) Passenger movements;

(iii) Fare structures; and

(iv) Service.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

**Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2009.**