

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 513

(Senators Forehand and Muse)

Finance

Environmental Matters

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission - Appointment of District of
Columbia Member**

This bill changes the District of Columbia agency from which the District of Columbia member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission is appointed, from the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia to a District of Columbia agency with oversight of matters relating to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009, subject to similar laws being passed by Virginia and the District of Columbia and a proclamation being declared.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not affect governmental finances.

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.

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

Chapter 32 of 2008 changed 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. Virginia and the District of Columbia enacted similar bills, but the U.S. Congress has not yet adopted such legislation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2009
ncs/ljm

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