

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 842  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Oaks)

Finance

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Maryland Transit Administration - Free Ridership for State Employees

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This bill requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to offer the same free transit ridership programs that are offered to Executive Branch employees to employees of the Legislative and Judicial branches of State government.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Because use of free transit by Legislative and Judicial branch employees is expected to be minimal, the bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Currently, employees of the Executive Branch of State government, among others, may ride on MTA local service (Baltimore area bus, Metro subway, and light rail) at no cost. This fringe benefit, which is not authorized in statute, was established by the Executive Branch approximately 11 years ago. A November 2009 Maryland Department of Transportation report noted that State employees took approximately 1% of the passenger trips on Baltimore area bus, light rail, and Metro subway service in fiscal 2009. The report further conveyed that, if MTA sold monthly passes to each State employee taking free rides, local service revenues would increase by \$1.45 million or 1.9% annually.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 985 of 2011 passed in the House, but it received an unfavorable report from the Senate Finance Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Budget and Management, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2012  
mc/lgc

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