

HOUSE BILL 287

J1

3lr1373

By: **Delegate Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2013

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Study of Paratransit Services**
3 **for Dialysis Patients**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
5 conduct a certain study of paratransit services provided for dialysis patients in
6 the State; requiring the study to make certain determinations and evaluate
7 scheduling of certain dialysis treatments; requiring the Department to report
8 the findings and any recommendations based on the study to the Governor and
9 certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and
10 generally relating to a study of paratransit services for dialysis patients in the
11 State.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, The demand for paratransit services has increased significantly in
14 the past 5 years and the primary factor in this increase is attributable to the needs of
15 dialysis patients; and

16 WHEREAS, State funding for paratransit services in Maryland has not
17 increased for the past 5 years while the cost of providing this service has increased
18 significantly; and

19 WHEREAS, The circumstances relating to the provision of paratransit services
20 vary between jurisdictions; and

21 WHEREAS, A statewide study of paratransit services offers the best means to
22 identify the need for additional resources as well as opportunities to improve service
23 and reduce costs to better serve the needs of dialysis patients; now, therefore,

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 MARYLAND, That:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct a study of
2 paratransit services provided for dialysis patients in the State.

3 (b) The study conducted under subsection (a) of this section shall:

4 (1) determine the number of dialysis treatments provided each year
5 that require paratransit services, the number of paratransit trips provided each year
6 for dialysis patients, and the number and location of dialysis centers in each
7 jurisdiction in the State;

8 (2) evaluate whether dialysis treatments requiring paratransit
9 services are being scheduled efficiently, including whether dialysis patients are being
10 scheduled for treatments at dialysis centers nearest to the residences of patients; and

11 (3) determine whether it is possible to improve coordination in the
12 scheduling of multiple dialysis patients living in close proximity to each other to allow
13 for a more efficient use of paratransit services.

14 (c) On or before December 15, 2013, the Department of Health and Mental
15 Hygiene shall report the findings of the study required under this section, and any
16 recommendations based on the study, to the Governor and, in accordance with §
17 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,
18 the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House
19 Health and Government Operations Committee.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 July 1, 2013.