

Chapter 793

(House Bill 1468)

AN ACT concerning

Transit – Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program in the Maryland Transit Administration; authorizing the Administration to make certain grants under the Program to certain providers for certain employment and commuter projects; providing for certain administrative expenses; providing for the distribution of funds under the Program; requiring the Administration to conduct certain solicitations before accepting grant applications under the Program; establishing a certain application process for a grant under the Program; establishing certain standards for grants awarded under the Program; establishing certain limitations on and a minimum duration of a grant for operating assistance; providing for funding for the Program; requiring the Administration to conduct a certain study on the Program and submit the study to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program.

BY adding to

Article – Transportation

Section 7–1101 through 7–1108 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11. Job Access and Reverse Commute Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

SUBTITLE 11. JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM.

7–1101.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) (1) “JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROJECT” MEANS A PROJECT THAT:

(I) PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO TARGETED POPULATIONS; AND

(II) SERVES TARGETED EMPLOYMENT AREAS.

(2) “JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROJECT” INCLUDES:

(I) THE EXTENSION OF SERVICE HOURS ON LOCAL FIXED ROUTE TRANSIT SYSTEMS TO A TARGETED EMPLOYMENT AREA;

(II) VANPOOL SERVICES;

(III) EMPLOYER PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; OR

(IV) DEMAND-RESPONSE OR DEVIATED FIXED ROUTE TRANSIT SERVICES.

(3) “JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROJECT” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(I) RIDE MATCHING, MOBILITY MANAGEMENT, OR COMMUTER ASSISTANCE SERVICES;

(II) SERVICES PROVIDED BY A FOR-HIRE VEHICLE OR A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY;

(III) CARPOOL SERVICES;

(IV) VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAMS; OR

(V) EXCEPT FOR SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF A JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROJECT, OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

(C) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM.

(D) “PROVIDER” MEANS A PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, A LOCAL TRANSIT SYSTEM, OR ONE OR MORE EMPLOYER THAT IMPLEMENTS A JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROJECT.

(E) “TARGETED EMPLOYMENT AREA” MEANS AN AREA THAT HAS RECENTLY EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SECTORS INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION, MANUFACTURING, LOGISTICS, WAREHOUSING, RETAIL TRADE, OR THE SERVICE INDUSTRY.

(F) "TARGETED POPULATION" MEANS INDIVIDUALS IN DEFINED AREAS WHO:

(1) RESIDE IN LOW INCOME AREAS, AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;

(2) HAVE LIMITED OR NO ACCESS TO THE USE OF A PERSONAL VEHICLE; AND

(3) RESIDE IN AREAS WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO FIXED ROUTE TRANSIT SERVICE;

~~(4) RECEIVE OR HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;~~
~~AND~~

~~(5) HAVE NOT MORE THAN:~~

~~(I) A GRADE 12 EDUCATION; OR~~

~~(II) 1 YEAR OF WORK EXPERIENCE.~~

7-1102.

THERE IS A JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

7-1103.

(A) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY MAKE GRANTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO A PROVIDER FOR JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROJECTS THAT CONNECT TARGETED POPULATIONS WITH TARGETED EMPLOYMENT AREAS.

(B) A PROVIDER MAY USE NOT MORE THAN 10% OF THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO THE PROVIDER UNDER THIS SUBTITLE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

(C) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE AMOUNTS MADE AVAILABLE FOR A FISCAL YEAR TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBTITLE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) 70% OF THE FUNDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PROVIDERS FOR USE IN URBANIZED AREAS; AND

(2) 30% OF THE FUNDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PROVIDERS FOR USE IN RURAL AREAS.

(D) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY DISTRIBUTE FUNDS:

(1) UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION FOR RURAL PROJECTS IF THE ADMINISTRATION CERTIFIES THAT NO ELIGIBLE GRANT REQUESTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN URBANIZED AREAS; AND

(2) UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION FOR URBAN PROJECTS IF THE ADMINISTRATION CERTIFIES THAT NO ELIGIBLE GRANT REQUESTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN RURAL AREAS.

7-1104.

(A) BEFORE ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS UNDER § 7-1103(C)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONDUCT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, AN AREA-WIDE SOLICITATION FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS.

(B) BEFORE ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS UNDER § 7-1103(C)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONDUCT A STATEWIDE SOLICITATION FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS.

(C) A PROVIDER THAT IS SEEKING A GRANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE ADMINISTRATION AN APPLICATION ON A FORM AND IN THE MANNER THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REQUIRES.

7-1105.

THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

(1) AWARD GRANTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS;

(2) ENSURE THAT GRANTS ARE AWARDED AND DISTRIBUTED TO PROVIDERS ON A FAIR AND EQUITABLE BASIS; AND

(3) FOR PROJECTS IN URBANIZED AREAS, AWARD GRANTS ONLY TO PROJECTS ENDORSED BY THE APPROPRIATE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION.

7-1106.

A GRANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE:

(1) MAY NOT EXCEED 80% OF THE NET OPERATING COSTS OF THE PROJECT, AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; AND

(2) SHALL PROVIDE SERVICES FOR MORE THAN 3 YEARS.

7-1107.

FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE STATE BUDGET, NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000 ANNUALLY.

7-1108.

ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2021, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM AND SUBMIT THE STUDY TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.