

HOUSE BILL 1263

R2

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By: **Delegates Wells, Boyce, Bridges, Harrison, Lafferty, Lehman, Love, and Stewart**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Public Transit – Fare Capping**
3 **(Equal Opportunity Through Transit Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transit
5 Administration to conduct a study on the feasibility of implementing a fare-capping
6 system across certain services; requiring the Department and the Administration to
7 conduct certain research and develop certain recommendations; requiring the
8 Department and the Administration to submit a report to the Governor and the
9 General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Department and the
10 Administration to submit an additional report on or before a certain date under
11 certain circumstances; providing for the construction of this Act; defining
12 “fare capping”; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
13 the development of a fare-capping system across State transit services.

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, Fare capping provides the same benefits as period passes to all users
16 and to the transit agency, even if those users are unable or unwilling to pay the up-front,
17 fixed cost of the period pass; and

18 WHEREAS, Because the use of period passes provides a simplified fare structure, a
19 convenient user experience, and the potential for a per trip discount, use of period passes
20 has been shown to increase ridership; and

21 WHEREAS, Implementing fare capping will increase public transit use and extend
22 the benefits of period passes to all public transit users; and

23 WHEREAS, Fare capping has been utilized in Portland, Oregon, London, England,
24 and Dublin, Ireland; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Fare capping ensures that each rider receives equitable benefit from
2 unlimited pass offerings from public transportation systems serving residents regardless
3 of their ability to pay for the pass up front; now, therefore,

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
5 That:

6 (a) In this section, “fare capping” means a system that counts the number of times
7 a rider uses a public transportation system within specific time spans and restricts
8 additional charges after the rider uses the cost equivalent of a daily, weekly, or monthly
9 pass.

10 (b) The Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transit Administration
11 shall:

12 (1) study the feasibility of implementing a fare-capping system across:

13 (i) State-funded commuter rail services; and

14 (ii) public transportation services that receive funding from the
15 Transportation Trust Fund or the General Fund of the State; and

16 (2) conduct research and develop recommendations on implementing a
17 fare-capping system, including recommendations on policies, costs, barriers, and a
18 projected implementation schedule.

19 (c) On or before June 30, 2020, the Department and the Administration shall
20 submit a report of their findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance
21 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

22 (d) If the study concludes that fare capping is not feasible within the current
23 6-year Consolidated Transportation Program, the Department and the Administration
24 shall report on or before January 1, 2021, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246
25 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on plans for each commuter rail
26 and public transit agency to implement a fare-capping system not later than January 1,
27 2028.

28 (e) Nothing in this section may be construed to preclude the Department and the
29 Administration from implementing, as an interim measure, any marketing, fare policy, or
30 operating system to increase ridership on commuter rail and public transit in the State.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
32 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2021,
33 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
34 of no further force and effect.