

HOUSE BILL 1367

R2

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By: **Delegates Corderman, Anderton, Barve, Boyce, Buckel, Carr, D.M. Davis, Fraser-Hidalgo, Hornberger, Korman, Krimm, R. Lewis, Lierman, Lopez, McComas, McKay, Palakovich Carr, Parrott, Qi, Reilly, Solomon, Wivell, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Appropriations and Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Western Maryland MARC Rail Extension – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on
4 extending Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail service to western
5 Maryland; requiring the Department to study and make recommendations regarding
6 certain matters; requiring the Department to report its findings and
7 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain
8 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to conducting
9 a study on extending MARC rail service to western Maryland.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That:

12 (a) The Department of Transportation shall conduct a study and develop
13 recommendations on the feasibility, including the cost, of extending MARC rail service to
14 western Maryland.

15 (b) In conducting the study, the Department of Transportation shall:

16 (1) examine existing commuter rail facilities in the State and current
17 transportation options in western Maryland;

18 (2) identify the possibilities and challenges related to establishing and
19 operating MARC rail service in western Maryland;

20 (3) study the public transportation needs of Allegany County and
21 Washington County in the vicinity of interstates 70 and 81;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (4) confer with the following stakeholders:
- 2 (i) the Washington County Board of County Commissioners;
- 3 (ii) the City of Hagerstown;
- 4 (iii) Washington County residents;
- 5 (iv) public transit advocates; and
- 6 (v) representatives of the local business community;
- 7 (5) identify infrastructure needs;
- 8 (6) perform a cost analysis of the capital and operating costs of extending
9 MARC rail service to western Maryland;
- 10 (7) identify all potential stops and estimate the potential ridership for each
11 stop;
- 12 (8) study and compare the potential ridership for rush-hour-only service
13 and all-day service;
- 14 (9) develop recommendations on the potential starting and end points of a
15 MARC extension that would reach the following areas:
- 16 (i) Maryland Route 65;
- 17 (ii) downtown Hagerstown; and
- 18 (iii) Keedysville;
- 19 (10) examine the potential of connecting:
- 20 (i) the CSX Green Line to an inactive line in Washington County;
21 and
- 22 (ii) an extended CSX Green Line with the MARC Brunswick Line;
- 23 (11) explore the potential effect that extending MARC rail service to western
24 Maryland would have on CSX; and
- 25 (12) identify any Department of Natural Resources rights-of-way that may
26 be in the path of a potential MARC line that would extend commuter rail service to Western
27 Maryland.
- 28 (c) The Department of Transportation shall develop recommendations on the

1 feasibility of planning, financing, constructing, and operating a MARC line that extends
2 commuter rail service to western Maryland.

3 (d) On or before December 1, 2021, the Department of Transportation shall
4 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance
5 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September
8 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
9 abrogated and of no further force and effect.