

SENATE BILL 869

R2

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By: **Senators Corderman, Rosapepe, Simonaire, Jackson, Augustine, Edwards, Ellis, Eckardt, and Salling**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Statewide Transit Plan – 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 Maryland Transit Administration to incorporate
7 certain recommendations into the Statewide Transit Plan; requiring the Department
8 to complete the study notwithstanding any alteration or postponement of the
9 Statewide Transit Plan; requiring the Department to report its findings and
10 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain
11 date; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Statewide Transit Plan
12 and a study on extending MARC rail service to western Maryland.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (2) “Department” means the Department of Transportation.

17 (3) “Statewide Transit Plan” means a framework developed by the
18 Maryland Transit Administration that provides a 50–year vision of coordinated local,
19 regional, and intercity transit across the State, including defined public transportation
20 goals and strategies for rural, suburban, and urban regions.

21 (b) The Department shall conduct a study on the feasibility, including the cost, of
22 extending MARC rail service to western Maryland.

23 (c) In conducting the study, the Department shall:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) Examine existing commuter rail facilities in the State and current
2 transportation options in western Maryland;

3 (2) Explore up to three potential routes for expanding rail service to
4 western Maryland;

5 (3) Identify the possibilities and challenges related to establishing and
6 operating MARC rail service in western Maryland;

7 (4) Study the public transportation needs of Allegany County and
8 Washington County in the vicinity of interstates 70 and 81;

9 (5) Confer with the following stakeholders:

10 (i) The Washington County Board of County Commissioners;

11 (ii) The City of Hagerstown;

12 (iii) Washington County residents;

13 (iv) Public transit advocates;

14 (v) Representatives of the local business community;

15 (vi) The Allegany County Board of County Commissioners;

16 (vii) The City of Cumberland;

17 (viii) Allegany County residents; and

18 (ix) The Town of Hancock;

19 (6) Identify infrastructure needs;

20 (7) Perform a cost analysis of the capital and operating costs of extending
21 MARC rail service to western Maryland;

22 (8) Identify all potential stops and estimate the potential ridership for each
23 stop;

24 (9) Study and compare the potential ridership for rush-hour-only service
25 and all-day service;

26 (10) Develop recommendations on the potential starting and end points of a
27 MARC extension; and

1 (11) Explore the potential effect that extending MARC rail service to
2 western Maryland would have on CSX.

3 (d) The Department shall develop recommendations on the feasibility of planning,
4 financing, constructing, and operating a MARC line that extends commuter rail service to
5 western Maryland.

6 (e) On or before July 1, 2023, the Department shall submit a report of its findings
7 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
8 Government Article, the General Assembly.

9 (f) (1) The Maryland Transit Administration shall incorporate the
10 recommendations of the study into the Statewide Transit Plan.

11 (2) Notwithstanding any alteration or postponement of the Statewide
12 Transit Plan, the Department shall conduct the study in accordance with this section.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2021.