

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 510 (Delegate Valentino-Smith)
Environment and Transportation

Transportation - Private Sector Transportation Projects Ombudsman -
Establishment

This bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to designate an individual to serve as the Private Sector Transportation Projects Ombudsman. The ombudsman must respond to concerns, complaints, and other inquiries regarding private sector transportation projects that are being developed or tested within the State. The ombudsman is an employee of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and MDOT must provide the ombudsman with sufficient resources to respond to all inquiries in an accurate and timely manner. MDOT must include the name of and contact information for the ombudsman on its website and in the *Consolidated Transportation Program*.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. MDOT has already designated an individual to serve as a private sector transportation project ombudsman and can disseminate the ombudsman’s name and contact information in the manner required by the bill using existing resources.

Local Effect: None. The bill does not affect local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MDOT is charged with managing the State’s transportation systems, including any transportation undertaken by private sector entities. While MDOT is organized into various organizations based on mode of transportation (such as the State

Highway Administration and the Maryland Port Administration), the Secretary's Office within MDOT oversees and advises each administration.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 733 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Environment and Transportation Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, SB 526, received a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Baltimore, Garrett, and Howard counties; City of Laurel; Department of Legislative Services

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rh/lgc

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