

# SENATE BILL 422

R1  
SB 557/20 – FIN

1lr1026

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By: **Senator Salling**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

### **Maryland Transportation Authority – Vehicle Not Using Bridge – No Toll Payment Required**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Transportation Authority from charging a toll at a toll plaza adjacent to a bridge that is a transportation facilities project for a vehicle that does not traverse the bridge; requiring the Authority to direct, by physical traffic management measures, vehicles that do not traverse the bridge into a toll-free lane through the toll plaza or construct a lane bypassing the toll plaza for use by vehicles that do not traverse the bridge; and generally relating to tolls and Maryland Transportation Authority bridges.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 4–101(h) and 4–312(a)(2)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 4–312(c)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume)

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

### **Article – Transportation**

4–101.

(h) “Transportation facilities project” includes:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) The Susquehanna River Bridge, the Harry W. Nice/Thomas “Mac” Middleton Potomac River Bridge, the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Chesapeake Bay Bridge and parallel Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, the Fort McHenry Tunnel, the Francis Scott Key Bridge, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway, together with their appurtenant causeways, approaches, interchanges, entrance plazas, toll stations, and service facilities;

(2) A vehicle parking facility located in a priority funding area as defined in § 5-7B-02 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

(3) Any other project for transportation facilities that the Authority authorizes to be acquired or constructed; and

(4) Any additions, improvements, or enlargements to any of these projects, whenever authorized.

4-312.

(a) (2) As to all or any part of any transportation facilities project, the Authority may:

(i) Fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and other charges and revenues for its use or for its services; and

(ii) Contract with any person who desires its use for any purpose and fix the terms, conditions, rentals, rates, fees, tolls, or other charges or revenues for this use.

(c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and other charges and revenues are not subject to supervision or regulation by any instrumentality, agency, or unit of this State or any of its political subdivisions.

(2) This subtitle does not permit the exercise of any power or the undertaking of any activity that would conflict with the provisions and limitations of the federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964.

(3) Tolls for the use of the bridge carrying the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway over the Susquehanna River may not be less than the comparable tolls charged for the use of the Susquehanna River Bridge.

(4) **(I) AT A TOLL PLAZA ADJACENT TO A BRIDGE THAT IS A TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT, THE AUTHORITY MAY NOT CHARGE A TOLL FOR A VEHICLE THAT DOES NOT TRAVERSE THE BRIDGE.**

**(II) THE AUTHORITY SHALL:**

**1. DIRECT, BY PHYSICAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES, VEHICLES THAT DO NOT TRAVERSE THE BRIDGE INTO A TOLL-FREE LANE THROUGH THE TOLL PLAZA; OR**

**2. CONSTRUCT A LANE BYPASSING THE TOLL PLAZA FOR USE BY VEHICLES THAT DO NOT TRAVERSE THE BRIDGE.**

**(5)** Prior to fixing or revising tolls on any part of any transportation facilities project, the Authority shall provide, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee information on the proposed toll charges, including:

- (i) The annual revenues generated by the toll charges;
- (ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and
- (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

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