CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning Transportation—Student Transportation—Transit Buses and Carpooling

Baltimore City—Maryland Transit Administration—Transit Services for Public School Students and Youth Workers

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to provide middle school and high school students in Baltimore City with a tangible and digital student transit pass and student transit identification card; authorizing a student who loses a student transit pass or student transit identification card and appears to be under a certain age to ride a transit bus without charge; prohibiting the Administration from imposing any restrictions on the use of a student transit pass; establishing a Student Carpool Incentive Program; requiring the State Department of Transportation to provide a certain amount to schools and carpool drivers participating in the Program; requiring the Administration on or before a certain date for certain years, to increase bus driver pay by a certain amount per hour; requiring the Administration, on or before a certain date for certain years, to add a certain number of transit buses to the Baltimore City weekday fleet; requiring a transit bus to stop for certain individuals; and generally relating to student transportation and bus transit certain services to certain students of the Baltimore City Public School System and youth workers in the Baltimore City YouthWorks program; prohibiting the Maryland Transit Administration from seeking certain fees or reimbursement; and generally relating to the Maryland Transit Administration and free ridership for Baltimore City Public School System students and youth workers.

BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.
Article—Education

Section 7–810 and 7–811
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

By adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 7–710 and 7–714
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article—Education

7–810.

(A) This section applies only in Baltimore City.

(B) (1) The Maryland Transit Administration shall provide middle school and high school students with a tangible and digital:

   (i) Student transit pass; and

   (ii) Student transit identification card.

   (2) A student who loses a student transit pass or student transit identification card and appears to be under the age of 22 years may ride a transit bus without charge.

   (C) The Administration may not impose any restrictions, including temporal restrictions, on the use of a student transit pass.

7–811.

(A) There is a Student Carpool Incentive Program.

(B) The purpose of the Program is to provide incentives for:

   (1) Schools to encourage carpooling; and

   (2) Parents or guardians to transport students using carpool.
(c) The Department shall create and publish on its website a registration portal for the Program.

(d) (1) To participate in the Program, a parent or guardian shall register the carpool on the Program portal, including information on the school that a participating student attends.

(2) A parent or guardian may designate another individual as a carpool driver.

(e) For participating in the Program, each year the State Department of Transportation shall provide:

(1) $1,000 to a participating school for each carpool transporting four or more students from three or more households; and

(2) $300 to the registered carpool driver for each registered student.

Article—Transportation

7-710.

(a) On or before July 1, 2023, and each July 1 thereafter through 2027, the Administration shall increase bus driver pay by $1 per hour.

(b) On or before July 1, 2023, and each July 1 thereafter through 2026, the Administration shall add 100 transit buses to the Baltimore City weekday fleet.

7-714.

A transit bus shall stop for:

(1) Pregnant individuals;

(2) Mothers with young children; and

(3) Individuals who appear to be under the age of 22 years.

Article—Transportation

7-710.
(A) The Administration shall provide ridership on transit vehicles to any eligible:

(1) Student of a public school of Baltimore City; and

(2) Youth worker in the Baltimore City YouthWorks program.

(B) The services provided under subsection (A) of this section shall be provided only for:

(1) A student of a public school in Baltimore City:

    (i) Between the hours of 5 a.m. and 8 p.m.; and

    (ii) For school-related or educational extracurricular activities on and off campus; or

(2) A youth worker in the Baltimore City YouthWorks program:

    (i) During the YouthWorks summer job period; and

    (ii) For purposes of engaging in YouthWorks-related activities.

(C) The Administration may not collect fees or reimbursement for services provided under this section.

(D) The Administration, in conjunction with Baltimore City Public Schools and the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, shall adopt regulations that establish the eligibility criteria for students and youth workers receiving a student transit pass for the use of services provided under this section.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.