

HOUSE BILL 1336

R2

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By: **Delegate Bridges**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Appropriations and Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and Funding Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and Funding
4 Commission to study and make findings and recommendations relating to the
5 funding, governance, and performance of mass transit in the greater Baltimore
6 region; and generally relating to the Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and
7 Funding Commission and mass transit.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) In this section, "Commission" means the Greater Baltimore Transit
11 Governance and Funding Commission.

12 (b) There is a Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and Funding Commission.

13 (c) (1) The Commission consists of the following members:

14 (i) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
15 President of the Senate;

16 (ii) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
17 of the House;

18 (iii) One individual who is an expert in mass transit issues in the
19 greater Baltimore region, appointed by the Governor; and

20 (iv) Three individuals from Baltimore City, two individuals from
21 Baltimore County, and one individual from Anne Arundel County, each of whom shall:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 1. Be appointed by the mayor or county executive of their
2 respective jurisdiction; and
- 3 2. Have one or more of the following qualifications:
- 4 A. Residence in a community impacted by the lack of mass
5 transit options or funding;
- 6 B. Expertise in mass transit issues in the greater Baltimore
7 region;
- 8 C. Representation of a local nonprofit or advocacy group
9 specializing in transportation issues;
- 10 D. Representation of an academic institution in the State; or
- 11 E. Representation of a historically underserved community
12 with respect to mass transit options or funding.
- 13 (2) To the extent practicable, the membership of the Commission shall
14 reflect the racial, gender, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State, according to the
15 most recent available census data.
- 16 (d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly
17 designate the chair of the Commission.
- 18 (e) The Department of Legislative Services and the Baltimore Metropolitan
19 Council shall provide staff for the Commission.
- 20 (f) (1) The Commission shall meet at least four times per calendar year.
- 21 (2) A majority of members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for
22 the transaction of business.
- 23 (3) A member of the Commission:
- 24 (i) May not receive compensation as a member of the Commission;
25 but
- 26 (ii) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
27 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 28 (4) All Commission members shall continue to serve until the reporting
29 required in subsection (h) of this section is complete and submitted to the General Assembly
30 and the Governor.
- 31 (g) The Commission shall:

1 (1) Review the findings of the Baltimore Regional Transit Governance and
2 Funding Study published by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board in August of
3 2021;

4 (2) Make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor
5 regarding changes to the funding and governance of transit in the greater Baltimore region;

6 (3) Study, analyze, and recommend alternative governance and funding
7 models for the Baltimore area transit system to the current State-led model; and

8 (4) Perform the following tasks:

9 (i) Identify potential approaches that:

10 1. Equitably distribute governance and funding
11 responsibilities in mass transit; and

12 2. Improve performance, accountability, and ridership on
13 Baltimore's transit system;

14 (ii) Review the Maryland Department of Transportation's projected
15 capital needs for comparison with the repair and service needs of the greater Baltimore
16 public transit system;

17 (iii) Study examples from peer regions of successful structures for
18 shared public transportation funding and oversight;

19 (iv) Review potential alternative distributions of responsibilities for
20 public transportation planning, oversight, and funding among State and local governments
21 to improve the planning and delivery of public transportation in the greater Baltimore
22 region;

23 (v) Review potential alternative entities or governance structures
24 for regional mass transit that include:

25 1. The study of whether a new regional transportation entity
26 could be created or existing entities could be given new responsibilities; and

27 2. Exploration of the general powers, duties, funding,
28 financing, and budget authority of any potential entity;

29 (vi) Locate potential State, local, or regional funding sources for
30 public transportation;

31 (vii) Coordinate with State, local, and other providers of public and
32 private transit in the region; and

1 (viii) Complete any additional steps needed to improve coordination
2 among public transportation services in the region.

3 (h) (1) On or before December 1, 2022, the Commission shall submit an interim
4 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
5 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

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

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
10 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and, at the end of
11 December 31, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall
12 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.