

SENATE BILL 838

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By: **Senator Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service – County**
3 **Funding**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Transportation to identify separately within
5 the Department of Transportation’s annual budget at least a certain amount of
6 funding in a certain fiscal year and all subsequent fiscal years to be used for county
7 elderly and handicapped transportation service; and generally relating to county
8 funding for elderly and handicapped transportation service.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 2–103.3(a), (c), (d), and (e)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Transportation
16 Section 2–103.3(b)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

21 2–103.3.

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

23 (2) “County” includes Baltimore City.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) “Elderly and handicapped person” means any person who, by reason of
2 illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent or temporary incapacity or
3 disability, is unable to use mass transit facilities and services as effectively as a person who
4 is not so affected.

5 (4) “Transportation service” means any transportation option or mix of
6 options that may include paratransit or fixed route service, established or employed by a
7 county to accommodate the transportation needs of its elderly and handicapped residents.

8 (b) (1) (I) [The] **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) THROUGH (IV) OF**
9 **THIS PARAGRAPH, THE** Secretary shall identify separately within the Department’s
10 annual budget an amount [that the Secretary deems necessary] to be used for elderly and
11 handicapped transportation service in each county.

12 (II) **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE SECRETARY SHALL IDENTIFY**
13 **SEPARATELY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT’S ANNUAL BUDGET AT LEAST \$4,305,908**
14 **TO BE USED FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED TRANSPORTATION SERVICE.**

15 (III) **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR**
16 **THEREAFTER, THE SECRETARY SHALL IDENTIFY SEPARATELY WITHIN THE**
17 **DEPARTMENT’S ANNUAL BUDGET AN AMOUNT FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED**
18 **TRANSPORTATION SERVICE THAT IS EQUAL TO AT LEAST THE AMOUNT IN THE**
19 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION IN**
20 **ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

21 (IV) 1. **THE INFLATION ADJUSTMENT SHALL EQUAL THE**
22 **PRODUCT OF MULTIPLYING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING IN THE IMMEDIATELY**
23 **PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR BY THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE**
24 **INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS.**

25 2. **THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER**
26 **PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY COMPARING**
27 **THE AVERAGE OF THE INDEX FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING ON THE NOVEMBER 30**
28 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH THE FUNDING AMOUNT IS**
29 **BEING CALCULATED TO THE AVERAGE OF THE INDEX FOR THE PRIOR 12 MONTHS.**

30 3. **IF THERE IS A DECLINE OR NO GROWTH IN THE**
31 **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS, THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING**
32 **UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED.**

33 (2) The amount the Secretary identifies, or such other amount as may be
34 appropriated by the General Assembly for the provision of elderly and handicapped
35 transportation service in each county, shall be distributed as provided in subsections (c),
36 (d), and (e) of this section.

1 (c) (1) Of the amount separately identified or otherwise appropriated under
2 subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall:

3 (i) Allocate 60 percent equally among the counties; and

4 (ii) Allocate the remaining amount among the counties in proportion
5 to their respective percentages of the State's combined elderly and handicapped population.

6 (2) Subject to the limitations provided in subsection (f) of this section, the
7 Secretary shall distribute all such allocated amounts to those counties which file a written
8 application with the Department in such form and detail as the Secretary requires.

9 (3) A written application submitted by a county under this subsection may
10 not be accepted or considered by the Secretary unless the local area agency on aging
11 certifies its approval of the project for the funding for which the application is made.

12 (4) The Secretary shall consult with the Department of Aging and the
13 Department of Disabilities in distributing the funds available under this section.

14 (d) (1) In determining local transportation needs, the counties shall take into
15 account the elderly and handicapped transportation needs of the municipalities within
16 their jurisdictions. Nothing in this section shall preclude a municipality from requesting
17 the county to apply for part or all of the county's allocation of funds available under this
18 section on behalf of the municipality.

19 (2) In the event a municipality believes it is not afforded a reasonable share
20 of the funds available to the county under this section, the municipality may appeal the
21 county's allocation decision directly to the Secretary.

22 (e) (1) If any of the allocated funds described in subsection (c) of this section
23 are not applied for by the counties within 6 months after the beginning of the fiscal year,
24 the Secretary shall make those funds available to counties pursuant to application
25 procedures and criteria developed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Department
26 of Aging and the Department of Disabilities. The criteria shall provide that:

27 (i) Such funds may be made available to counties in which the
28 Secretary determines that additional funds for transportation service to the elderly and
29 handicapped are most needed; and

30 (ii) Local match requirements described in subsection (f) of this
31 section shall apply to all disbursements.

32 (2) A written application submitted by a county under this subsection may
33 not be accepted or considered by the Secretary unless the local area agency on aging
34 certifies its approval of the project for the funding for which the application is made.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2022.