

HOUSE BILL 794

R2

(3lr2034)

ENROLLED BILL

— Appropriations and Environment and Transportation/Finance —

Introduced by **Delegate Bridges**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore Regional Transit Commission – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission to review and
4 ~~approve~~ comment on annual budget requests of the Maryland Transit
5 Administration, updates to the Central Maryland Transportation Plan, and certain
6 annual reports ~~on the Administration's state of good repair~~, and to perform other
7 oversight and advocacy duties related to Baltimore region transit services; and
8 generally relating to the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Transportation

11 Section 7-213

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



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

Article – Transportation

7-213.

(A) THERE IS A BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMISSION.

(B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

**(1) THE FOLLOWING SIX MEMBERS FROM BALTIMORE CITY,
APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:**

**(I) ~~FOUR~~ THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR,
INCLUDING:**

**1. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO USES TRANSIT IN THE
BALTIMORE REGION; AND**

**2. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM THE BUSINESS
COMMUNITY; AND**

**(II) ~~TWO~~ THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF
BALTIMORE CITY;**

**(2) THE FOLLOWING ~~FIVE~~ FOUR MEMBERS FROM BALTIMORE
COUNTY, APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:**

**(I) ~~THREE~~ TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR,
INCLUDING:**

**1. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO USES TRANSIT IN THE
BALTIMORE REGION; AND**

**2. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM THE BUSINESS
COMMUNITY; AND**

**(II) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY;**

**(3) THE FOLLOWING TWO MEMBERS FROM ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY,
APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:**

(I) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND

1 (II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF
2 ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY;

3 (4) THE FOLLOWING TWO MEMBERS FROM HOWARD COUNTY,
4 APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

5 (I) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND

6 (II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF
7 HOWARD COUNTY; ~~AND~~

8 (5) ONE NONVOTING MEMBER WHO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE
9 ADMINISTRATION AND IS A MEMBER OF THE ~~LARGEST LABOR UNION IN THE~~
10 ~~BALTIMORE REGION~~ AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL LABOR UNION,
11 DESIGNATED BY THE LABOR UNION; AND

12 (6) THE SECRETARY OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE, WHO SHALL
13 VOTE ONLY IN THE CASE OF A TIE.

14 (C) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL SELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR
15 FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

16 (2) THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR SHALL EACH SERVE A TERM OF 2
17 YEARS IN THOSE CAPACITIES.

18 (D) (1) THE TERM OF A COMMISSIONER IS 3 YEARS.

19 (2) A COMMISSIONER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO
20 CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

21 (3) THE TERM OF A COMMISSIONER BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2024.

22 (4) THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY
23 THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON JANUARY 1, 2024.

24 (5) AT THE END OF A TERM, A COMMISSIONER CONTINUES TO SERVE
25 UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

26 (E) (1) THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE
27 STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

1 **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR**
2 **OPERATIONAL EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING FUNDING**
3 **FOR ONE SENIOR PLANNER AND TWO JUNIOR PLANNER STAFFING POSITIONS.**

4 **(F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:**

5 **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**
6 **COMMISSION; BUT**

7 **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**
8 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

9 **(G) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

10 **(1) ORGANIZE AND ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE**
11 **OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING CONFLICT OF INTEREST STANDARDS**
12 **THAT PROHIBIT A COMMISSIONER FROM HAVING ANY INAPPROPRIATE FINANCIAL**
13 **OR NONFINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MATTER OVER WHICH THE COMMISSION HAS**
14 **JURISDICTION;**

15 **(2) NOT LATER THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE COMMISSION FIRST**
16 **MEETS, ADOPT BYLAWS TO GOVERN THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION;**

17 **(3) (I) MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY; AND**

18 **(II) ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING THE MEETINGS AND,**
19 **AT ALL TIMES, ELECTRONICALLY;**

20 **(4) INCLUDE IN THE QUARTERLY AGENDA EACH OF THE FOLLOWING**
21 **TOPICS AT LEAST ONCE EACH YEAR:**

22 **(I) ~~THE STATE OF GOOD REPAIR~~ CAPITAL NEEDS INVENTORY**
23 **REPORT;**

24 **(II) THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**
25 **PRIORITIES AND INITIAL BUDGET REQUESTS UNDER § 2-103.1 OF THIS ARTICLE;**
26 **AND**

27 **(III) ~~ANY BUDGET REQUEST APPROVAL; AND~~**

28 **(~~IV~~) ANY UPDATE ON THE CENTRAL MARYLAND REGIONAL**
29 **TRANSIT PLAN UNDER § 7-301.1 OF THIS TITLE;**

1 (5) (I) KEEP MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS AND MAINTAIN
2 PROPER RECORDS OF ALL COMMISSION ACTIVITY; AND

3 (II) POST ALL MINUTES, RECORDS, NOTICES, COMMENTS, OR
4 OTHER INFORMATION ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION OR RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC
5 ON A PUBLIC WEBSITE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED BY THE COMMISSION;

6 (6) ~~EXERCISE OVERSIGHT OF~~ PROVIDE INPUT AND ENGAGE IN
7 ADVOCACY FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS MAINTAINED
8 BY THE ADMINISTRATION;

9 (7) ~~REVIEW ANY REPORT PREPARED BY OR FOR~~ REQUEST AND
10 REVIEW INFORMATION FROM THE ANNUAL ATTAINMENT REPORT AND THE
11 ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S
12 GOALS, INCLUDING PERFORMANCE GOALS AND METRICS, EVALUATE ANY OTHER
13 MEASURES OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BALTIMORE REGION TRANSIT SYSTEM,
14 AND ISSUE WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HOW THE RESULTS OF THE
15 COMMISSION'S REVIEW AND EVALUATION SHOULD INFLUENCE THE
16 ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES IN FUTURE YEARS;

17 (8) REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ~~TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS,~~
18 ~~PLANS, AND SERVICES PROPOSED FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION THAT~~
19 ~~COMPLEMENT THE TRANSIT PLANS AND SERVICES OF THE ADMINISTRATION~~
20 SERVICE CHANGE REPORTS AND MAJOR SERVICE CHANGE PROPOSALS ON A
21 QUARTERLY BASIS;

22 (9) REVIEW AND ~~APPROVE~~ COMMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S
23 ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION,
24 INCLUDING BUS, LIGHT RAIL, METRO, COMMUTER BUS, MARC SERVICE, AND
25 PARATRANSIT AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT AND FINAL
26 CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM;

27 (10) ~~CONVENE SUBCOMMITTEES OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES~~
28 ~~TO GATHER INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS FROM NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS,~~
29 ~~CIVIC FOUNDATIONS, EMPLOYERS, AND TRANSIT RIDERS REGARDING TRANSIT~~
30 ~~SERVICE IN THE BALTIMORE REGION;~~

31 (11) ~~AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE, PROPOSE TO THE ADMINISTRATION~~
32 ~~AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY POLICIES THAT PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY,~~
33 ~~TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, CUSTOMER SERVICE, REGULAR~~
34 ~~COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC, AND PRUDENT FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING~~
35 ~~IN THE BALTIMORE REGION;~~

1 ~~(12)~~ REVIEW AND APPROVE ANY UPDATE TO THE CENTRAL
2 MARYLAND REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN;

3 ~~(13) SUBMIT FORMAL COMMENT ON THE CONSOLIDATED~~
4 ~~TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM;~~

5 ~~(14) (11) REVIEW AND APPROVE AN ANNUAL PLAN ON THE STATE OF~~
6 ~~GOOD-REPAIR COMMENT ON THE CAPITAL NEEDS INVENTORY REPORT; AND~~

7 ~~(15) (12) REVIEW LOCAL TRANSIT PLANS AND SERVICES IN THE~~
8 ~~BALTIMORE REGION TO ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE LOCAL TRANSIT~~
9 ~~SERVICES AND THE ADMINISTRATION.~~

10 (H) IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS
11 SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ENDEAVOR TO ENSURE THAT THE
12 ADMINISTRATION'S PLANS, BUDGETS, DECISIONS, POLICIES, GOALS, PRIORITIES,
13 OPERATIONS, AND SERVICES ADDRESS THE PUBLIC TRANSIT NEEDS OF RESIDENTS
14 AND BUSINESSES IN THE BALTIMORE REGION.

15 (I) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL
16 REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BALTIMORE REGION
17 TRANSIT SYSTEMS TO THE ADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNOR, AND, IN
18 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding § 7-213(d)
21 of the Transportation Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, the initial terms of the
22 members of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission established under this Act shall
23 be staggered as follows:

24 (1) of the ~~two~~ three members from Baltimore City appointed by the Mayor,
25 one member shall serve an initial term of 4 years and ~~one member~~ two members shall serve
26 an initial term of 3 years;

27 (2) of the ~~four~~ three members from Baltimore City appointed by the
28 Governor, ~~two members~~ one member shall serve an initial term of 4 years and two members
29 shall serve an initial term of 3 years;

30 (3) of the two members from Baltimore County appointed by the County
31 Executive of Baltimore County, one member shall serve an initial term of 4 years and one
32 member shall serve an initial term of 3 years;

33 (4) of the ~~three~~ two members from Baltimore County appointed by the
34 Governor, one member shall serve an initial term of 4 years and ~~two members~~ one member
35 shall serve an initial term of 3 years;

1 (5) the member from Anne Arundel County appointed by the County
2 Executive of Anne Arundel County shall serve an initial term of ~~4~~ 3 years;

3 (6) the member from Anne Arundel County appointed by the Governor
4 shall serve an initial term of ~~3~~ 4 years;

5 (7) the member from Howard County appointed by the County Executive
6 of Howard County shall serve an initial term of 4 years;

7 (8) the member from Howard County appointed by the Governor shall
8 serve an initial term of 3 years; *and*

9 (9) ~~the members of the General Assembly each shall serve an initial term~~
10 ~~of 4 years; and~~

11 ~~(10)~~ the nonvoting member representing a labor union shall serve an initial
12 term of 3 years.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.