

HOUSE BILL 794

R2

3lr2034
CF SB 876

By: **Delegate Bridges**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2023

Assigned to: Appropriations and Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

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 annual budget requests of the Maryland Transit Administration, updates to
5 the Central Maryland Transportation Plan, and annual reports on the
6 Administration’s state of good repair, and to perform other oversight and advocacy
7 duties related to Baltimore region transit services; and generally relating to the
8 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)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 **7–213.**

18 **(A) THERE IS A BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMISSION.**

19 **(B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(I) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR,**
2 **INCLUDING:**

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

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

7 **(II) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE**
8 **CITY;**

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

11 **(I) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR,**
12 **INCLUDING:**

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

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

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

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

21 **(I) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND**

22 **(II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF**
23 **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY;**

24 **(4) THE FOLLOWING TWO MEMBERS FROM HOWARD COUNTY,**
25 **APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:**

26 **(I) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND**

27 **(II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF**
28 **HOWARD COUNTY; AND**

1 **(5) ONE NONVOTING MEMBER WHO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE**
2 **ADMINISTRATION AND IS A MEMBER OF THE LARGEST LABOR UNION IN THE**
3 **BALTIMORE REGION, DESIGNATED BY THE LABOR UNION.**

4 **(C) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL SELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR**
5 **FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.**

6 **(2) THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR SHALL EACH SERVE A TERM OF 2**
7 **YEARS IN THOSE CAPACITIES.**

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

9 **(2) A COMMISSIONER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO**
10 **CONSECUTIVE TERMS.**

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

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

14 **(5) AT THE END OF A TERM, A COMMISSIONER CONTINUES TO SERVE**
15 **UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.**

16 **(E) (1) THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE**
17 **STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.**

18 **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR**
19 **OPERATIONAL EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION.**

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

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

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

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

26 **(1) ORGANIZE AND ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE**
27 **OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING CONFLICT OF INTEREST STANDARDS**
28 **THAT PROHIBIT A COMMISSIONER FROM HAVING ANY INAPPROPRIATE FINANCIAL**

1 OR NONFINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MATTER OVER WHICH THE COMMISSION HAS
2 JURISDICTION;

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

5 (3) (I) MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY; AND

6 (II) ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING THE MEETINGS AND,
7 AT ALL TIMES, ELECTRONICALLY;

8 (4) INCLUDE IN THE QUARTERLY AGENDA EACH OF THE FOLLOWING
9 TOPICS AT LEAST ONCE EACH YEAR:

10 (I) THE STATE OF GOOD REPAIR REPORT;

11 (II) THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
12 PRIORITIES AND INITIAL BUDGET REQUESTS UNDER § 2-103.1 OF THIS ARTICLE;

13 (III) ANY BUDGET REQUEST APPROVAL; AND

14 (IV) ANY UPDATE ON THE CENTRAL MARYLAND REGIONAL
15 TRANSIT PLAN UNDER § 7-301.1 OF THIS TITLE;

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

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

21 (6) EXERCISE OVERSIGHT OF AND ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY FOR THE
22 BALTIMORE REGION PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS MAINTAINED BY THE
23 ADMINISTRATION;

24 (7) REVIEW ANY REPORT PREPARED BY OR FOR THE
25 ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S
26 GOALS, INCLUDING PERFORMANCE GOALS AND METRICS, EVALUATE ANY OTHER
27 MEASURES OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BALTIMORE REGION TRANSIT SYSTEM,
28 AND ISSUE WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HOW THE RESULTS OF THE
29 COMMISSION'S REVIEW AND EVALUATION SHOULD INFLUENCE THE
30 ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES IN FUTURE YEARS;

1 **(8) REVIEW AND COMMENT ON TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS,**
2 **PLANS, AND SERVICES PROPOSED FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION THAT**
3 **COMPLEMENT THE TRANSIT PLANS AND SERVICES OF THE ADMINISTRATION;**

4 **(9) REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANNUAL**
5 **OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION,**
6 **INCLUDING BUS, LIGHT RAIL, METRO, COMMUTER BUS, MARC SERVICE, AND**
7 **PARATRANSIT;**

8 **(10) CONVENE SUBCOMMITTEES OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES**
9 **TO GATHER INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS FROM NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS,**
10 **CIVIC FOUNDATIONS, EMPLOYERS, AND TRANSIT RIDERS REGARDING TRANSIT**
11 **SERVICE IN THE BALTIMORE REGION;**

12 **(11) AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE, PROPOSE TO THE ADMINISTRATION**
13 **AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY POLICIES THAT PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY,**
14 **TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, CUSTOMER SERVICE, REGULAR**
15 **COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC, AND PRUDENT FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING**
16 **IN THE BALTIMORE REGION;**

17 **(12) REVIEW AND APPROVE ANY UPDATE TO THE CENTRAL**
18 **MARYLAND REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN;**

19 **(13) SUBMIT FORMAL COMMENT ON THE CONSOLIDATED**
20 **TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM;**

21 **(14) REVIEW AND APPROVE AN ANNUAL PLAN ON THE STATE OF GOOD**
22 **REPAIR; AND**

23 **(15) REVIEW LOCAL TRANSIT PLANS AND SERVICES IN THE**
24 **BALTIMORE REGION TO ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE LOCAL TRANSIT**
25 **SERVICES AND THE ADMINISTRATION.**

26 **(H) IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS**
27 **SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ENDEAVOR TO ENSURE THAT THE**
28 **ADMINISTRATION'S PLANS, BUDGETS, DECISIONS, POLICIES, GOALS, PRIORITIES,**
29 **OPERATIONS, AND SERVICES ADDRESS THE PUBLIC TRANSIT NEEDS OF RESIDENTS**
30 **AND BUSINESSES IN THE BALTIMORE REGION.**

31 **(I) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL**
32 **REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BALTIMORE REGION**
33 **TRANSIT SYSTEMS TO THE ADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNOR, AND, IN**
34 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**
35 **ASSEMBLY.**

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

5 (1) of the two members from Baltimore City appointed by the Mayor, one
6 member shall serve an initial term of 4 years and one member shall serve an initial term
7 of 3 years;

8 (2) of the four members from Baltimore City appointed by the Governor,
9 two members shall serve an initial term of 4 years and two members shall serve an initial
10 term of 3 years;

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

14 (4) of the three members from Baltimore County appointed by the
15 Governor, one member shall serve an initial term of 4 years and two members shall serve
16 an initial term of 3 years;

17 (5) the member from Anne Arundel County appointed by the County
18 Executive of Anne Arundel County shall serve an initial term of 4 years;

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

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

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

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

27 (10) the nonvoting member representing a labor union shall serve an initial
28 term of 3 years.

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