

# SENATE BILL 876

R2

3lr2036  
CF HB 794

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By: **Senator M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Finance

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## 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) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE**  
21 **PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE**  
2 **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

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

5           **(I) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR,**  
6 **INCLUDING:**

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

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

11           **(II) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE**  
12 **CITY;**

13           **(4) THE FOLLOWING FIVE MEMBERS FROM BALTIMORE COUNTY,**  
14 **APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:**

15           **(I) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR,**  
16 **INCLUDING:**

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

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

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

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

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

26           **(II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF**  
27 **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY;**

28           **(6) THE FOLLOWING TWO MEMBERS FROM HOWARD COUNTY,**  
29 **APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

2 (II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF  
3 HOWARD COUNTY; AND

4 (7) ONE NONVOTING MEMBER WHO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE  
5 ADMINISTRATION AND IS A MEMBER OF THE LARGEST LABOR UNION IN THE  
6 BALTIMORE REGION, DESIGNATED BY THE LABOR UNION.

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

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

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

12 (2) A COMMISSIONER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO  
13 CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

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

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

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

19 (E) (1) THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE  
20 STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

21 (2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR  
22 OPERATIONAL EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION.

23 (F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

24 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
25 COMMISSION; BUT

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

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

2           **(1) ORGANIZE AND ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE**  
3 **OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING CONFLICT OF INTEREST STANDARDS**  
4 **THAT PROHIBIT A COMMISSIONER FROM HAVING ANY INAPPROPRIATE FINANCIAL**  
5 **OR NONFINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MATTER OVER WHICH THE COMMISSION HAS**  
6 **JURISDICTION;**

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

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

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

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

14           **(I) THE STATE OF GOOD REPAIR REPORT;**

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

17           **(III) ANY BUDGET REQUEST APPROVAL; AND**

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

20           **(5) (I) KEEP MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS AND MAINTAIN**  
21 **PROPER RECORDS OF ALL COMMISSION ACTIVITY; AND**

22           **(II) POST ALL MINUTES, RECORDS, NOTICES, COMMENTS, OR**  
23 **OTHER INFORMATION ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION OR RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC**  
24 **ON A PUBLIC WEBSITE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED BY THE COMMISSION;**

25           **(6) EXERCISE OVERSIGHT OF AND ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY FOR THE**  
26 **BALTIMORE REGION PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS MAINTAINED BY THE**  
27 **ADMINISTRATION;**

28           **(7) REVIEW ANY REPORT PREPARED BY OR FOR THE**  
29 **ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S**  
30 **GOALS, INCLUDING PERFORMANCE GOALS AND METRICS, EVALUATE ANY OTHER**  
31 **MEASURES OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BALTIMORE REGION TRANSIT SYSTEM,**

1 AND ISSUE WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HOW THE RESULTS OF THE  
2 COMMISSION'S REVIEW AND EVALUATION SHOULD INFLUENCE THE  
3 ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES IN FUTURE YEARS;

4 (8) REVIEW AND COMMENT ON TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS,  
5 PLANS, AND SERVICES PROPOSED FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION THAT  
6 COMPLEMENT THE TRANSIT PLANS AND SERVICES OF THE ADMINISTRATION;

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

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

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

20 (12) REVIEW AND APPROVE ANY UPDATE TO THE CENTRAL  
21 MARYLAND REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN;

22 (13) SUBMIT FORMAL COMMENT ON THE CONSOLIDATED  
23 TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM;

24 (14) REVIEW AND APPROVE AN ANNUAL PLAN ON THE STATE OF GOOD  
25 REPAIR; AND

26 (15) REVIEW LOCAL TRANSIT PLANS AND SERVICES IN THE  
27 BALTIMORE REGION TO ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE LOCAL TRANSIT  
28 SERVICES AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

