

Chapter 503

**(Senate Bill 693)**

AN ACT concerning

**Transportation – Assaults on Public Transit Operators – Report**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to submit a certain annual report on assaults on public transit operators to certain persons; and generally relating to assaults on public transit operators.

BY adding to

Article – Transportation

Section 7-714

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

**Article – Transportation**

**7-714.**

**(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

**(2) “LOCAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY” MEANS:**

**(I) 1. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A COUNTY; OR**

**2. IF A COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY; AND**

**(II) IF A MUNICIPALITY OPERATES A TRANSIT SYSTEM:**

**1. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE MUNICIPALITY; OR**

**2. IF THE MUNICIPALITY DOES NOT HAVE A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY.**

**(3) (I) “PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATOR” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS:**

1. EMPLOYED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY, OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION; AND

2. ENGAGED IN PROVIDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INCLUDING:

A. BUS SERVICE;

B. TRAIN SERVICE;

C. LIGHT RAIL SERVICE; AND

D. SUBWAY SERVICE.

(II) "PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATOR" INCLUDES A TRANSIT STATION MANAGER.

(B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON ASSAULTS ON PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATORS AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.

(C) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING ~~12 MONTHS CALENDAR YEAR~~ 12 MONTHS:

(1) FOR EACH ASSAULT ON A PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATOR:

(I) THE NATURE OF THE ASSAULT;

(II) THE MODE OF TRANSIT WHERE THE ASSAULT OCCURRED;

(III) THE LOCATION OF THE ASSAULT;

(IV) WHETHER POLICE WERE INVOLVED IN RESPONDING TO THE ASSAULT; AND

(V) THE OUTCOME OF ANY INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSAULT, INCLUDING ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN, IF THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE;

(2) A COMPARISON OF THE AGGREGATE DATA COMPILED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION WITH AT LEAST TWO OTHER STATES WITH SIMILAR TRANSIT SYSTEMS OR POPULATIONS; AND

**(3) A REVIEW OF CURRENT TRANSIT INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE ASSAULTS ON PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATORS.**

**(D) ~~ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2024~~ DECEMBER 1, 2023, AND EACH ~~JANUARY 31~~ DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT UNDER THIS SECTION TO:**

**(1) EACH LOCAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY;**

**(2) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR EACH COUNTY; AND**

**(3) THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE:**

**(I) THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE;**

**(II) THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE;**

**(III) THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE; AND**

**(IV) THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the report due on ~~December 1, 2023, January 31, 2024~~ December 1, 2023, under § 7-714 of the Transportation Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act shall include, in addition to the information required by § 7-714 of the Transportation Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, the following information:

(1) the data described in § 7-714(c)(1) of the Transportation Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act for each of the immediately preceding 5 years;

(2) an evaluation of assault prevention and mitigation technology and policies for each transit system operated by a political subdivision;

(3) recommendations to improve the existing assault prevention and mitigation technology and policies for each transit system operated by a political subdivision; and

(4) an evaluation of the feasibility of establishing a statewide local transit safety officer to provide guidance to transit systems operated by political subdivisions on best practices to prevent and mitigate assaults on public transit operators.

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2023.**