

SENATE BILL 126

R2, B1

(PRE-FILED)

4r1222
CF HB 198

By: **Senators Augustine and Feldman**

Requested: October 29, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – WMATA Operating Assistance – Alteration**
3 **(Maryland Metro Funding Act of 2024)**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing for a certain fiscal year a requirement that the Secretary of
5 Transportation withhold a certain percentage of the State’s share of annual
6 operating grants for the Washington Suburban Transit District if the State’s
7 operating assistance provided in the approved Washington Metropolitan Area
8 Transit Authority budget increases by more than a certain percentage over the total
9 operating assistance provided in the prior fiscal year; and generally relating to
10 operating grants for the Washington Suburban Transit District.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 10–205(b)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 10–205.

20 (b) (1) Subject to the appropriation requirements and budgetary provisions of
21 § 3–216(d) of this article and upon receipt of an approval of a grant application in such form
22 and detail as the Secretary shall reasonably require, the Department shall provide for
23 annual grants to the Washington Suburban Transit District for a share of the operating
24 deficits of the regional transit system for which the District is responsible. “Operating
25 deficit” means operating costs less:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) The greater of operating revenues or 50 percent of the operating
2 costs; and

3 (ii) All federal operating assistance.

4 (2) The Department's share shall equal 100 percent of the operating deficit.

5 (3) (i) **[For] BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026, FOR** any fiscal year
6 in which the total Maryland operating assistance provided in the approved Washington
7 Metropolitan Area Transit Authority budget increases by more than 3% over the total
8 operating assistance provided in the prior fiscal year's approved Washington Metropolitan
9 Area Transit Authority budget, the Secretary shall withhold an amount equal to 35% of the
10 funds available under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection.

11 (ii) For purposes of calculating a budget increase under
12 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the following items may not be included:

13 1. The cost of any service, equipment, or facility that is
14 required by law;

15 2. A capital project approved by the board of directors of the
16 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;

17 3. Any payments or obligations arising from or related to
18 legal disputes or proceedings or arbitration proceedings between or among the Washington
19 Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and any other person; and

20 4. Any service increases approved by the board of directors of
21 the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
23 1, 2024.