

SENATE BILL 891

R2

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CF 4lr2185

By: **Senator McCray**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – MobilityLink Paratransit Service Improvements – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of
4 Maryland to conduct a study to identify methods to improve the Maryland Transit
5 Administration’s ADA MobilityLink paratransit service; and generally relating to
6 the study to identify methods to improve the Administration’s ADA MobilityLink
7 paratransit service.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 (2) “ADA” means the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

12 (3) “Administration” means the Maryland Transit Administration.

13 (b) The Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of Maryland shall
14 conduct a study to identify methods to improve the Maryland Transit Administration’s
15 ADA MobilityLink paratransit service.

16 (c) The study shall:

17 (1) summarize and compare the Administration’s MobilityLink service to
18 similar entities nationwide that provide ADA paratransit services;

19 (2) identify the service structure of ADA paratransit services in other
20 service areas nationwide and whether a public entity, private contractor, or hybrid model
21 is used to provide the service, including consideration of how the following services are
22 provided:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) fleet ownership;
- 2 (ii) fleet maintenance;
- 3 (iii) dispatch;
- 4 (iv) reservations;
- 5 (v) scheduling;
- 6 (vi) operators;
- 7 (vii) mechanics;
- 8 (viii) customer service;
- 9 (ix) quality assurance and control; and
- 10 (x) any other relevant aspects as the Maryland Transportation
11 Institute deems necessary;
- 12 (3) analyze both the short- and long-term fiscal costs and savings
13 associated with each type of ADA paratransit service model, including a comparison of the
14 quality of service and reliability of each service model;
- 15 (4) analyze the performance metrics associated with the ADA paratransit
16 services in various service areas nationwide based on the Federal Transit Administration's
17 ADA Guidance for metrics, including:
- 18 (i) on-time performance for pick-ups and drop-offs;
- 19 (ii) missed trips;
- 20 (iii) onboard transit times;
- 21 (iv) excessive trip lengths;
- 22 (v) call center hold times and performance;
- 23 (vi) rate of customer complaints and resolution; and
- 24 (vii) safety conditions and practices on paratransit vehicles;
- 25 (5) analyze the workforce metrics among the ADA paratransit services in
26 various service areas nationwide, including:
- 27 (i) turnover rate;

- 1 (ii) average length of employment;
- 2 (iii) absenteeism rate;
- 3 (iv) accidents and preventable accident rates;
- 4 (v) workplace injury rates;
- 5 (vi) workers' compensation claims rates;
- 6 (vii) career training opportunities;
- 7 (viii) career advancement opportunities;
- 8 (ix) average wages and benefits;
- 9 (x) morale and satisfaction; and
- 10 (xi) any other relevant aspects as the Maryland Transportation
11 Institute deems necessary;

12 (6) solicit input and comments from the public and riders of the
13 Administration's MobilityLink paratransit service; and

14 (7) develop recommendations for service improvements to the
15 Administration's MobilityLink paratransit service, considering long-term costs and
16 benefits alongside a qualitative analysis to enhance the delivery of high-quality service to
17 MobilityLink riders.

18 (d) The Governor may include in the fiscal year 2026 budget bill an appropriation
19 of at least \$150,000 for the purpose of carrying out the study required under subsection (b)
20 of this section.

21 (e) On or before July 1, 2025, the Maryland Transportation Institute shall submit
22 a report on its findings and recommendations to:

23 (1) the Governor;

24 (2) in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article:

25 (i) the General Assembly;

26 (ii) the members of the Anne Arundel County Delegation to the
27 Maryland General Assembly;

1 (iii) the members of the Baltimore County Delegation to the
2 Maryland General Assembly; and

3 (iv) the members of the Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland
4 General Assembly;

5 (3) the County Executive and County Council of Anne Arundel County;

6 (4) the County Executive and County Council of Baltimore County; and

7 (5) the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of
10 December 31, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall
11 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.