

HOUSE BILL 1203

R1

5lr2429

By: **Delegate R. Long**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority – Replacement for the Francis Scott Key**
3 **Bridge – Suspension of Tolls**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Transportation Authority from charging a
5 toll for the use of the new bridge to replace the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge
6 for a certain duration following the opening of the bridge; and generally relating to
7 toll bridges.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 4–312(a)(2) and (b)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 4–312(c)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Transportation**

21 4–312.

22 (a) (2) As to all or any part of any transportation facilities project, the
23 Authority may:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) Fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and other
2 charges and revenues for its use or for its services; and

3 (ii) Contract with any person who desires its use for any purpose and
4 fix the terms, conditions, rentals, rates, fees, tolls, or other charges or revenues for this use.

5 (b) The rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and other charges and revenues designated as
6 security for any bonds issued under this subtitle shall be fixed and adjusted from time to
7 time, either with respect to a particular transportation facilities project or in respect of the
8 aggregate of the charges and revenues from other transportation facilities projects under
9 the control of the Authority, as may be specified by law or in any applicable resolution or
10 trust agreement, so as to provide funds that, together with any other available revenues,
11 are sufficient as long as the bonds are outstanding and unpaid to:

12 (1) Pay the costs of maintaining, repairing, and operating the
13 transportation facilities project or projects financed in whole or in part by one or more series
14 of outstanding and unpaid bonds, to the extent that payment is not otherwise provided;

15 (2) Pay the principal of and the interest on these bonds as they become due
16 and payable;

17 (3) Create reasonable reserves that are anticipated will be needed for these
18 purposes; and

19 (4) Provide funds for paying the cost of replacements, renewals, and
20 improvements.

21 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the rentals, rates, fees,
22 tolls, and other charges and revenues are not subject to supervision or regulation by any
23 instrumentality, agency, or unit of this State or any of its political subdivisions.

24 (2) This subtitle does not permit the exercise of any power or the
25 undertaking of any activity that would conflict with the provisions and limitations of the
26 federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964.

27 (3) Tolls for the use of the bridge carrying the John F. Kennedy Memorial
28 Highway over the Susquehanna River may not be less than the comparable tolls charged
29 for the use of the Susquehanna River Bridge.

30 **(4) THE AUTHORITY MAY NOT CHARGE A TOLL FOR THE USE OF THE**
31 **NEW BRIDGE OVER THE PATAPSCO RIVER BUILT AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE**
32 **COLLAPSED FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE FOR THE FIRST 5 YEARS FOLLOWING THE**
33 **OPENING OF THE BRIDGE TO PASSENGER TRAFFIC.**

34 **[(4)] (5)** Prior to fixing or revising tolls on any part of any transportation
35 facilities project, the Authority shall provide, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
36 Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance

1 Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee
2 information on the proposed toll charges, including:

- 3 (i) The annual revenues generated by the toll charges;
- 4 (ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and
- 5 (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2025.