

HOUSE BILL 58

R2, O2, O3

6lr1681

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Healey**

Requested: November 1, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Paratransit Services – Interjurisdictional Routes**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a county that submits an application to the Secretary of
4 Transportation for funding for certain transportation services to identify certain
5 interjurisdictional paratransit service routes in the application; requiring the
6 Secretary to adopt procedures to ensure counties cooperate in establishing certain
7 interjurisdictional paratransit service routes; requiring a county that receives
8 funding for certain transportation services to establish certain interjurisdictional
9 paratransit service routes; and generally relating to interjurisdictional paratransit
10 service routes.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 2–103.3(a) and (b)(1)(i) and (2)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Transportation
18 Section 2–103.3(c), (e), and (g)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Transportation**

24 2–103.3.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

(2) “County” includes Baltimore City.

(3) “Elderly and handicapped person” means any person who, by reason of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable to use mass transit facilities and services as effectively as a person who is not so affected.

(4) “Transportation service” means any transportation option or mix of options that may include paratransit or fixed route service, established or employed by a county to accommodate the transportation needs of its elderly and handicapped residents.

(b) (1) (i) Subject to subparagraphs (ii) through (iv) of this paragraph, the Secretary shall identify separately within the Department’s annual budget an amount to be used for elderly and handicapped transportation service in each county.

(2) The amount the Secretary identifies, or such other amount as may be appropriated by the General Assembly for the provision of elderly and handicapped transportation service in each county, shall be distributed as provided in subsections (c), (d), and (e) of this section.

(c) (1) Of the amount separately identified or otherwise appropriated under subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall:

(i) Allocate 60 percent equally among the counties; and

(ii) Allocate the remaining amount among the counties in proportion to their respective percentages of the State’s combined elderly and handicapped population.

(2) Subject to the limitations provided in subsection (f) of this section, the Secretary shall distribute all such allocated amounts to those counties which file a written application with the Department in such form and detail as the Secretary requires.

(3) A written application submitted by a county under this subsection may not be accepted or considered by the Secretary unless [the]:

(I) THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIES A COUNTY-ADMINISTERED PARATRANSIT SERVICE THAT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS WITHIN DESIGNATED SERVICE AREAS, INCLUDING INTERJURISDICTIONAL ROUTES BETWEEN COUNTIES AND THE FACILITIES WITHIN THOSE COUNTIES IN THE FOLLOWING NETWORKS OF PROVIDERS:

1. ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE;

2. JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE;

3. LIFE BRIDGE HEALTH;

4. LUMINIS HEALTH MARYLAND:

5. MEDSTAR HEALTH; AND

6. UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM; AND

(II) THE local area agency on aging certifies its approval of the project for the funding for which the application is made.

(4) The Secretary shall consult with the Department of Aging and the Department of Disabilities in distributing the funds available under this section.

(e) (1) If any of the allocated funds described in subsection (c) of this section are not applied for by the counties within 6 months after the beginning of the fiscal year, the Secretary shall make those funds available to counties pursuant to application procedures and criteria developed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Aging and the Department of Disabilities. The criteria shall provide that:

(i) Such funds may be made available to counties in which the Secretary determines that additional funds for transportation service to the elderly and handicapped are most needed; and

(ii) Local match requirements described in subsection (f) of this section shall apply to all disbursements.

(2) A written application submitted by a county under this subsection may not be accepted or considered by the Secretary unless [the]:

(I) THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIES A COUNTY-ADMINISTERED PARATRANSIT SERVICE THAT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS WITHIN DESIGNATED SERVICE AREAS, INCLUDING INTERJURISDICTIONAL ROUTES BETWEEN COUNTIES AND THE FACILITIES WITHIN THOSE COUNTIES IN THE FOLLOWING NETWORKS OF PROVIDERS:

1. ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE;

2. JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE:

3. LIFE BRIDGE HEALTH:

4. LUMINIS HEALTH MARYLAND;

5. MEDSTAR HEALTH; AND**6. UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM; AND**

(II) THE local area agency on aging certifies its approval of the project for the funding for which the application is made.

(g) The Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Aging and the Department of Disabilities, shall develop procedures for the proper enforcement of this section. The procedures shall provide that:

(1) A county shall use all amounts distributed to it under this section only for the acquisition or replacement of equipment or for the operating costs of the county's transportation service;

(2) A county, in consultation with the local area agency on aging, shall determine the most effective means of serving the transportation needs of its elderly and handicapped residents;

(3) Each county shall cooperate with the [others] **OTHER COUNTIES** to best serve the transportation needs of the State's elderly and handicapped residents, **INCLUDING BY ESTABLISHING INTERJURISDICTIONAL PARATRANSIT SERVICE ROUTES BETWEEN COUNTIES AND THE FACILITIES WITHIN THOSE COUNTIES IN THE FOLLOWING NETWORKS OF PROVIDERS:**

(I) **ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE;**

(II) **JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE;**

(III) **LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH;**

(IV) **LUMINIS HEALTH MARYLAND;**

(V) **MEDSTAR HEALTH; AND**

(VI) **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM; and**

(4) A county administering a transportation service that receives funds under this section:

(i) Shall provide trips for any purpose;

(ii) Shall serve the elderly and handicapped citizens within the service areas identified in its application, **INCLUDING THROUGH INTERJURISDICTIONAL PARATRANSIT SERVICE ROUTES BETWEEN COUNTIES AND**

1 THE FACILITIES WITHIN THOSE COUNTIES IN THE FOLLOWING NETWORKS OF
2 PROVIDERS:

3 1. ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE;

4 2. JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE;

5 3. LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH;

6 4. LUMINIS HEALTH MARYLAND;

7 5. MEDSTAR HEALTH; AND

8 6. UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM;

9 (iii) May not restrict its transportation service to clients of social
10 service agencies;

11 (iv) May establish reasonable fares; and

12 (v) May permit persons other than the elderly and handicapped to
13 use or benefit from its transportation service to the extent capacity is available.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2026.