

SENATE BILL 947

R2

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

6lr2715
CF HB 1081

By: **Senator McCray**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transit Administration Reform Act**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Board of Directors for Baltimore Core Transit Service
4 in the Maryland Transit Administration as a governing body with certain authority
5 over the provision of Baltimore Core Transit Service; establishing the Commuter
6 Services Advisory Board to provide certain oversight over and guidance for certain
7 Administration commuter rail and bus services in the State; requiring the Maryland
8 Transportation Commission to determine the qualifications, appointments,
9 compensation, and leave for certain management personnel positions in the
10 Administration; repealing the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission as an
11 advisory commission for transit in the Baltimore City region; ~~proposing an~~
12 ~~amendment to the Maryland Constitution authorizing the General Assembly to~~
13 ~~apply certain condemnation authority to the Administration; authorizing the~~
14 ~~Administration to exercise certain quick take condemnation authority; exempting~~
15 ~~certain Administration capital construction projects from certain provisions of the~~
16 ~~State procurement law; limiting the liability of the Administration in a tort action to~~
17 ~~a certain amount; requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to contract~~
18 ~~with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to complete a technical study on the~~
19 ~~creation of a rail authority in the State; and generally relating to reform of the~~
20 Maryland Transit Administration.

21 ~~BY adding to~~
22 ~~Article State Finance and Procurement~~
23 ~~Section 11-203(l)~~
24 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ~~(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

2 BY adding to
 3 Article – Transportation
 4 Section 7–201.1, and 7–201.2, ~~7–401.1, and 7–401.2~~
 5 Annotated Code of Maryland
 6 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 8 Article – Transportation
 9 Section 7–206, ~~7–702, 8–327, and 8–328~~
 10 Annotated Code of Maryland
 11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing
 13 Article – Transportation
 14 Section 7–213
 15 Annotated Code of Maryland
 16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
 18 ~~Article – Transportation~~
 19 ~~Section 8–329~~
 20 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 21 ~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

22 ~~BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution~~
 23 ~~Article III – Legislative Department~~
 24 ~~Section 40B~~

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

27 ~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~

28 ~~11–203.~~

29 ~~(L) THIS DIVISION II DOES NOT APPLY TO MARYLAND TRANSIT~~
 30 ~~ADMINISTRATION CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ON EXISTING AND DEFINED~~
 31 ~~FIXED GUIDEWAY SYSTEMS.~~

32 Article – Transportation

33 7–201.1.

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

3 (2) "BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT SERVICE" MEANS:

4 (I) THE ADMINISTRATION'S BALTIMORE-AREA LOCAL BUS;

5 (II) THE ADMINISTRATION'S BALTIMORE-AREA LIGHT RAIL;

6 (III) THE ADMINISTRATION'S BALTIMORE-AREA METRO
7 SUBWAY; AND

8 (IV) THE ADMINISTRATION'S BALTIMORE-AREA PARATRANSIT.

9 (3) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR BALTIMORE
10 CORE TRANSIT SERVICE.

11 (B) THERE IS A BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT
12 SERVICE IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

13 (C) (1) THE BOARD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOTING MEMBERS:

14 (I) FIVE MEMBERS WHO LIVE IN THE BALTIMORE CORE
15 TRANSIT SERVICE AREA, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND
16 CONSENT OF THE SENATE, INCLUDING:

17 1. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO USES TRANSIT IN THE
18 BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT SERVICE AREA;

19 2. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS RIDERS
20 WITH ACCESSIBILITY CHALLENGES;

21 3. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING AN ANCHOR
22 INSTITUTION THAT ALSO PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN THE
23 BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT SERVICE AREA; AND

24 4. ONE MEMBER WHO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE
25 ADMINISTRATION AND IS A MEMBER OF A LABOR UNION THAT HAS A COLLECTIVE
26 BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION;

27 (II) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE
28 CITY;

1 (III) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE BALTIMORE COUNTY
2 EXECUTIVE; AND

3 (IV) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
4 EXECUTIVE.

5 (2) THE SECRETARY AND THE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL SERVE AS
6 NONVOTING EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS.

7 (3) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD,
8 WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR.

9 (D) (1) THE TERM OF A BOARD MEMBER IS 3 YEARS.

10 (2) THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY
11 THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ON JANUARY 1, 2027.

12 (3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL
13 A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

14 (4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES
15 ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND
16 QUALIFIES.

17 (E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE
18 STAFF FOR THE BOARD, INCLUDING A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR WHO SHALL SERVE
19 AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.

20 (2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE FOR THE
21 BOARD.

22 (F) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:

23 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD;
24 BUT

25 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
26 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

27 (G) THE BOARD SHALL:

1 **(1) APPROVE MAJOR SERVICE PLANS, POLICIES, AND INITIATIVES**
2 **FOR BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT SERVICE, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD AND**
3 **THE ADMINISTRATION ON A REASONABLE BASIS;**

4 **(2) PROVIDE ADVICE ON MAJOR PROJECT INITIATIVES, AS**
5 **DETERMINED BY THE BOARD AND THE ADMINISTRATION ON A REASONABLE BASIS;**

6 **(3) WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, APPOINT**
7 **THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR AND CONSULT WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR ON ANY**
8 **REMOVAL OF THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BY THE ADMINISTRATOR;**

9 **(4) (I) REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S**
10 **OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS FOR BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT**
11 **SERVICE; AND**

12 **(II) ESTABLISH, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT**
13 **AND THE ADMINISTRATION, A TIMELINE FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL UNDER THIS**
14 **PARAGRAPH:**

15 **1. THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S**
16 **BUDGET PROCESS; AND**

17 **2. UNDER WHICH THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL**
18 **BUDGET REQUESTS SHALL BE CONSIDERED APPROVED BY OPERATION OF LAW IF**
19 **THE BOARD DOES NOT TAKE ACTION WITHIN THE TIMELINE;**

20 **(5) HAVE APPROVAL AUTHORITY, SUPPORTED BY AT LEAST**
21 **TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, OVER ANY DECISION BY THE**
22 **DEPARTMENT OR THE ADMINISTRATION TO WITHDRAW A NEW STARTS CAPITAL**
23 **INVESTMENT GRANT OR ANOTHER FEDERAL GRANT UNDER A SUBSTANTIALLY**
24 **SIMILAR PROGRAM FOR ANY BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT SERVICE AREA PROJECT**
25 **ONCE THAT PROJECT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE ENGINEERING PHASE BY THE**
26 **FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION;**

27 **(6) (I) MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY; AND**

28 **(II) ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING THE MEETINGS AND,**
29 **AT ALL TIMES, ELECTRONICALLY;**

30 **(7) INCLUDE IN THE QUARTERLY AGENDA EACH OF THE FOLLOWING**
31 **TOPICS AT LEAST ONCE EACH YEAR:**

32 **(I) THE CAPITAL NEEDS INVENTORY REPORT;**

1 **(II) THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**
2 **PRIORITIES AND INITIAL BUDGET REQUESTS UNDER § 2-103.1 OF THIS ARTICLE;**
3 **AND**

4 **(III) ANY UPDATE ON THE CENTRAL MARYLAND REGIONAL**
5 **TRANSIT PLAN UNDER § 7-301.1 OF THIS TITLE;**

6 **(8) PROVIDE INPUT AND ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY FOR BALTIMORE**
7 **CORE TRANSIT SERVICE;**

8 **(9) (I) REQUEST AND REVIEW INFORMATION FROM THE ANNUAL**
9 **ATTAINMENT REPORT AND THE ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE ATTAINMENT**
10 **OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S GOALS, INCLUDING PERFORMANCE GOALS AND**
11 **METRICS;**

12 **(II) EVALUATE ANY OTHER MEASURES OF THE PERFORMANCE**
13 **OF BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT SERVICE; AND**

14 **(III) ISSUE WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HOW**
15 **THE RESULTS OF THE BOARD'S REVIEW AND EVALUATION SHOULD INFLUENCE THE**
16 **ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES IN FUTURE YEARS;**

17 **(10) REVIEW SERVICE CHANGE REPORTS AND APPROVE MAJOR**
18 **SERVICE CHANGE PROPOSALS;**

19 **(11) REVIEW AND APPROVE ANY UPDATE TO THE CENTRAL**
20 **MARYLAND REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN;**

21 **(12) REVIEW AND APPROVE THE CAPITAL NEEDS INVENTORY**
22 **REPORT;**

23 **(13) REVIEW LOCAL TRANSIT PLANS AND SERVICES IN THE**
24 **BALTIMORE REGION TO ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE LOCAL TRANSIT**
25 **SERVICES AND BALTIMORE CORE TRANSIT SERVICE;**

26 **(14) ORGANIZE AND ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE**
27 **OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD, INCLUDING CONFLICT OF INTEREST STANDARDS THAT**
28 **PROHIBIT A BOARD MEMBER FROM HAVING ANY INAPPROPRIATE FINANCIAL OR**
29 **NONFINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MATTER OVER WHICH THE BOARD HAS**
30 **JURISDICTION;**

1 **(15) NOT LATER THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE BOARD FIRST MEETS,**
2 **ADOPT BYLAWS TO GOVERN THE OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD;**

3 **(16) (I) KEEP MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS AND MAINTAIN**
4 **PROPER RECORDS OF ALL BOARD ACTIVITY; AND**

5 **(II) POST ALL MINUTES, RECORDS, NOTICES, COMMENTS, OR**
6 **OTHER INFORMATION ISSUED BY THE BOARD OR RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC ON A**
7 **PUBLIC WEBSITE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED BY THE BOARD; AND**

8 **(17) (I) SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND**
9 **TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE**
10 **HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE**
11 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON SYSTEM PERFORMANCE, TRENDS, MAJOR**
12 **PROJECTS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES; AND**

13 **(II) MAKE THE REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**
14 **AND ENSURE THAT THE REPORT IS READILY AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE OF THE**
15 **ADMINISTRATION.**

16 **(H) (1) THE BOARD SHALL MEET AT A TIME AND PLACE DESIGNATED BY**
17 **THE CHAIR.**

18 **(2) THE BOARD SHALL MEET AS OFTEN AS ITS DUTIES REQUIRE, BUT**
19 **NOT LESS THAN QUARTERLY.**

20 **7-201.2.**

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

23 **(2) “BOARD” MEANS THE COMMUTER SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD.**

24 **(3) “COMMUTER SERVICE” MEANS:**

25 **(i) MARC COMMUTER TRAIN SERVICE; AND**

26 **(ii) THE ADMINISTRATION’S COMMUTER BUS SERVICE.**

27 **(B) THERE IS A COMMUTER SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD IN THE**
28 **ADMINISTRATION.**

1 **(C) (1) THE BOARD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOTING MEMBERS,**
2 **APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:**

3 **(I) THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

4 **(II) SIX MEMBERS WHO RESIDE IN AREAS SERVED BY MARC OR**
5 **ADMINISTRATION COMMUTER BUSES;**

6 **(III) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS RIDERS WITH**
7 **ACCESSIBILITY CHALLENGES; AND**

8 **(IV) ONE MEMBER WHO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF AN**
9 **ADMINISTRATION COMMUTER SERVICE CONTRACTOR AND IS A MEMBER OF A LABOR**
10 **UNION THAT HAS A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUTER**
11 **SERVICE CONTRACTOR.**

12 **(2) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD,**
13 **WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR.**

14 **(D) (1) THE TERM OF A BOARD MEMBER IS 3 YEARS.**

15 **(2) THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY**
16 **THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ON JANUARY 1, 2027.**

17 **(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL**
18 **A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

19 **(4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES**
20 **ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND**
21 **QUALIFIES.**

22 **(E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE**
23 **STAFF FOR THE BOARD, INCLUDING A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR WHO SHALL SERVE**
24 **AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.**

25 **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE FOR THE**
26 **BOARD.**

27 **(F) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:**

28 **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD;**
29 **BUT**

1 **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**
2 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

3 **(G) THE BOARD SHALL:**

4 **(1) PROVIDE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON MARC AND COMMUTER BUS**
5 **PLANS AND POLICIES;**

6 **(2) REVIEW AND COMMENT ON MAJOR MARC AND COMMUTER BUS**
7 **SERVICE PLANS AND UPDATES;**

8 **(3) PROVIDE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON THE HIRING AND REMOVAL**
9 **OF THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR;**

10 **(4) (I) REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S**
11 **OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS FOR MARC AND COMMUTER BUS**
12 **SERVICE; AND**

13 **(II) ESTABLISH, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT**
14 **AND THE ADMINISTRATION, A TIMELINE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT UNDER THIS**
15 **PARAGRAPH THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET PROCESS;**
16 **AND**

17 **(5) (I) SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND**
18 **TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE**
19 **HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE**
20 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON SYSTEM PERFORMANCE, TRENDS, MAJOR**
21 **PROJECTS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES; AND**

22 **(II) MAKE THE REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**
23 **AND ENSURE THAT THE REPORT IS READILY AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE OF THE**
24 **ADMINISTRATION.**

25 **(H) (1) THE BOARD SHALL MEET AT A TIME AND PLACE DESIGNATED BY**
26 **THE CHAIR.**

27 **(2) THE BOARD SHALL MEET AS OFTEN AS THE DUTIES REQUIRE, BUT**
28 **NOT LESS THAN QUARTERLY.**

29 7-206.

30 **(a) (1) Without regard to the laws of this State relating to other State**
31 **employees, and subject to § 2-103.4 of this article, the Administration may:**

1 (i) Create and abolish any position other than one specifically
2 provided for in this title; and

3 (ii) Determine the qualification, appointment, removal, term, and
4 tenure of its employees.

5 (2) The Administration may determine the compensation of:

6 (i) Employees if the compensation is determined pursuant to
7 Subtitle 6 of this title;

8 (ii) Executive management positions, as recommended by the
9 Secretary and approved by the Governor, subject to approval in the budget; and

10 (iii) Management positions, subject to approval by the Secretary and
11 the Governor and the availability of funds in the budget.

12 (b) (1) Subject to § 2–103.4 of this article, the Administration may establish a
13 personnel system based on merit and fitness.

14 (2) The Administration may:

15 (i) Subject to Division II of the State Personnel and Pensions
16 Article, participate in the Employees' Retirement System and the Employees' Pension
17 System of the State of Maryland on terms and conditions mutually acceptable to the
18 Administration and the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System;
19 and

20 (ii) Establish and maintain an independent system of pensions and
21 retirement benefits for its employees.

22 (c) The Administrator may appoint and remove all employees of the
23 Administration, subject to the rules of procedure and standards that the Secretary adopts.

24 **(D) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE**
25 **MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE**
26 **QUALIFICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS, AS WELL AS COMPENSATION AND LEAVE,**
27 **FOR UP TO 12 MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL POSITIONS REQUIRED BY THE**
28 **ADMINISTRATION TO OPERATE AND ADMINISTER ALL STATE-OWNED TRANSIT**
29 **FACILITIES.**

30 **(2) (I) IN MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS UNDER**
31 **THIS SUBSECTION, THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SHALL**
32 **CONSIDER THE COMPARATIVE STATUS OF EMPLOYEES SERVING IN SIMILAR**
33 **POSITIONS AND DISCHARGING SIMILAR DUTIES AT COMPARABLE TRANSIT**
34 **AGENCIES.**

1 **(II) IN SELECTING COMPARABLE TRANSIT AGENCIES, THE**
2 **MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER OPERATIONAL AND**
3 **TRAFFIC DATA, MARKET AREA CHARACTERISTICS, AGENCY COMPETITIVENESS, AND**
4 **ANY OTHER FACTORS THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE.**

5 **(3) EXCEPT FOR GENERAL SALARY INCREASES APPROVED BY THE**
6 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SHALL**
7 **SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AT LEAST 10 DAYS**
8 **BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ANY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL POSITION SALARY**
9 **INCREASE NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT.**

10 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL:**

11 **(I) REVIEW THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT; AND**

12 **(II) WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE PROPOSED**
13 **ADJUSTMENT, ADVISE THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WHETHER**
14 **THE ADJUSTMENT POSES AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON SPECIAL FUND EXPENDITURES.**

15 **(5) FAILURE OF THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO**
16 **ADVISE THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION IN A TIMELY MANNER**
17 **SHALL BE DEEMED A DETERMINATION THAT THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT POSES**
18 **NO ADVERSE IMPACT.**

19 **(6) EMPLOYEES APPOINTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION ARE STATE**
20 **EMPLOYEES AND SHALL BE ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RETIREMENT AND**
21 **PENSION SYSTEMS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND AUTHORIZED**
22 **UNDER DIVISION II OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.**

23 [7-213.

24 (a) There is a Baltimore Regional Transit Commission.

25 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

26 (1) The following six members from Baltimore City, appointed as follows:

27 (i) Three members appointed by the Governor, including:

28 1. At least one member who uses transit in the Baltimore
29 region; and

30 2. At least one member from the business community; and

- 1 (ii) Three members appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City;
- 2 (2) The following four members from Baltimore County, appointed as
3 follows:
- 4 (i) Two members appointed by the Governor, including:
- 5 1. At least one member who uses transit in the Baltimore
6 region; and
- 7 2. At least one member from the business community; and
- 8 (ii) Two members appointed by the County Executive of Baltimore
9 County;
- 10 (3) The following two members from Anne Arundel County, appointed as
11 follows:
- 12 (i) One member appointed by the Governor; and
- 13 (ii) One member appointed by the County Executive of Anne
14 Arundel County;
- 15 (4) The following two members from Howard County, appointed as follows:
- 16 (i) One member appointed by the Governor; and
- 17 (ii) One member appointed by the County Executive of Howard
18 County;
- 19 (5) One nonvoting member who is an employee of the Administration and
20 is a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union local labor union, designated by the labor
21 union; and
- 22 (6) The Secretary or the Secretary's designee, who shall vote only in the
23 case of a tie.
- 24 (c) (1) The Commission shall select a chair and a vice chair from among its
25 members.
- 26 (2) The chair and vice chair shall each serve a term of 2 years in those
27 capacities.
- 28 (d) (1) The term of a commissioner is 3 years.
- 29 (2) A commissioner may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

1 (3) The term of a commissioner begins January 1, 2024.

2 (4) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms
3 provided for members of the Commission on January 1, 2024.

4 (5) At the end of a term, a commissioner continues to serve until a successor
5 is appointed.

6 (e) (1) The Baltimore Metropolitan Council shall provide staff for the
7 Commission.

8 (2) The Administration shall allocate funds for operational expenses
9 incurred by the Commission, including funding for one senior planner and two junior
10 planner staffing positions.

11 (f) A member of the Commission:

12 (1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

13 (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
14 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

15 (g) The Commission shall:

16 (1) Organize and establish policies and procedures for the operations of the
17 Commission, including conflict of interest standards that prohibit a commissioner from
18 having any inappropriate financial or nonfinancial interest in a matter over which the
19 Commission has jurisdiction;

20 (2) Not later than 6 months after the Commission first meets, adopt bylaws
21 to govern the operations of the Commission;

22 (3) (i) Meet at least quarterly; and

23 (ii) Accept public comments during the meetings and, at all times,
24 electronically;

25 (4) Include in the quarterly agenda each of the following topics at least once
26 each year:

27 (i) The Capital Needs Inventory Report;

28 (ii) The Consolidated Transportation Program priorities and initial
29 budget requests under § 2-103.1 of this article; and

1 (iii) Any update on the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan
2 under § 7–301.1 of this title;

3 (5) (i) Keep minutes of Commission meetings and maintain proper
4 records of all Commission activity; and

5 (ii) Post all minutes, records, notices, comments, or other
6 information issued by the Commission or received from the public on a public website
7 established and maintained by the Commission;

8 (6) Provide input and engage in advocacy for the Baltimore region public
9 transit systems maintained by the Administration;

10 (7) Request and review information from the Annual Attainment Report
11 and the Administration concerning the attainment of the Administration’s goals, including
12 performance goals and metrics, evaluate any other measures of the performance of the
13 Baltimore region transit system, and issue written recommendations concerning how the
14 results of the Commission’s review and evaluation should influence the Administration’s
15 priorities in future years;

16 (8) Review and comment on service change reports and major service
17 change proposals on a quarterly basis;

18 (9) Review and comment on the Administration’s annual operating and
19 capital budget request for the Baltimore region, including bus, light rail, metro, commuter
20 bus, MARC service, and paratransit as part of the development of the draft and final
21 Consolidated Transportation Program;

22 (10) Review and approve any update to the Central Maryland Regional
23 Transit Plan;

24 (11) Review and comment on the Capital Needs Inventory Report; and

25 (12) Review local transit plans and services in the Baltimore region to
26 ensure coordination between the local transit services and the Administration.

27 (h) In carrying out its duties under subsection (g) of this section, the Commission
28 shall endeavor to ensure that the Administration’s plans, budgets, decisions, policies, goals,
29 priorities, operations, and services address the public transit needs of residents and
30 businesses in the Baltimore region.

31 (i) On or before December 1 each year, the Commission shall report its findings
32 and recommendations on the Baltimore region transit systems to the Administration, the
33 Governor, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General
34 Assembly.]

1 ~~(a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Administration is liable for its~~
2 ~~contracts and torts and for the torts of its officers, agents, and employees in connection with~~
3 ~~the performance of the duties and functions of the Administration under this title.~~

4 ~~(b) (1) The exclusive remedy for a breach of contract or for a tort committed by~~
5 ~~the Administration, its officers, agents, or employees is a suit against the Administration.~~

6 ~~(2) No execution may be levied on any property of this State or of the~~
7 ~~Administration.~~

8 ~~(c) THE LIABILITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION AS TO A TORT ACTION MAY~~
9 ~~NOT EXCEED \$400,000 TO A SINGLE CLAIMANT FOR INJURIES ARISING FROM A~~
10 ~~SINGLE INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE.~~

11 ~~(D) Subsection [(d)] (E) of this section does not apply to a tort claim that is~~
12 ~~asserted by cross claim, counterclaim, or third party claim.~~

13 ~~[(d)] (E) A tort claimant may not institute an action under this section unless:~~

14 ~~(1) The claimant submits a written notice of claim to the Administrator or~~
15 ~~the Administrator's designee within 1 year after the injury to person or property that is the~~
16 ~~basis of the claim;~~

17 ~~(2) The Administrator or the Administrator's designee denies the claim;~~
18 ~~and~~

19 ~~(3) The action is filed within 3 years after the cause of action arises.~~

20 ~~[(c)] (F) A notice of claim under this section shall:~~

21 ~~(1) Contain a concise statement of facts that sets forth the nature of the~~
22 ~~claim, including the date and place of the alleged tort;~~

23 ~~(2) State the name and address of the claimant;~~

24 ~~(3) State the name, address, and telephone number of counsel for the~~
25 ~~claimant, if any; and~~

26 ~~(4) Be signed by the claimant, or the legal representative or counsel for the~~
27 ~~claimant.~~

28 ~~[(f)] (G) A claim under this section is denied:~~

1 ~~(1) If the Administrator or the Administrator's designee sends the~~
 2 ~~claimant, or the legal representative or counsel for the claimant, written notice of denial;~~
 3 ~~or~~

4 ~~(2) If the Administrator or the Administrator's designee fails to give notice~~
 5 ~~of a denial within 6 months after the sending of the notice of claim.~~

6 ~~[(g)] (H) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, unless the~~
 7 ~~Administration affirmatively shows that its defense has been prejudiced by the lack of the~~
 8 ~~required notice, a court may allow the action to proceed even if the written notice of claim~~
 9 ~~was not submitted.~~

10 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, (Three fifths of all the members~~
 11 ~~elected to each of the two Houses concurring), That it be proposed that the Maryland~~
 12 ~~Constitution read as follows:~~

~~Article III — Legislative Department~~

14 ~~40B.~~

15 ~~The General Assembly shall enact no law authorizing private property to be taken~~
 16 ~~for public use without just compensation, to be agreed upon between the parties or awarded~~
 17 ~~by a jury, being first paid or tendered to the party entitled to such compensation, except~~
 18 ~~that where such property in the judgment of the State [Roads Commission] HIGHWAY~~
 19 ~~ADMINISTRATION, OR A SUCCESSOR STATE AGENCY, is needed by the State for~~
 20 ~~highway purposes OR OF THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, OR A~~
 21 ~~SUCCESSOR STATE AGENCY, IS NEEDED BY THE STATE FOR TRANSIT PURPOSES, the~~
 22 ~~General Assembly may provide that such property may be taken immediately upon~~
 23 ~~payment therefor to the owner or owners thereof by said State [Roads Commission]~~
 24 ~~HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, OR ANY~~
 25 ~~RESPECTIVE SUCCESSOR STATE AGENCIES, or into Court, such amount as said State~~
 26 ~~[Roads Commission] HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR MARYLAND TRANSIT~~
 27 ~~ADMINISTRATION, OR ANY RESPECTIVE STATE AGENCIES, shall estimate to be of the~~
 28 ~~fair value of said property, provided such legislation also requires the payment of any~~
 29 ~~further sum that may subsequently be awarded by a jury.~~

30 ~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read~~
 31 ~~as follows:~~

~~Article — Transportation~~

33 ~~7-401.1.~~

34 ~~(A) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF~~
 35 ~~PROPERTY IS TO BE CONDEMNED FOR A TRANSIT PURPOSE, THE ADMINISTRATION~~
 36 ~~SHALL CONDEMN THE NECESSARY PROPERTY UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

1 ~~(2) IF THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS THE PROCEDURES UNDER~~
2 ~~THIS SECTION INAPPROPRIATE, THE PROPERTY MAY BE CONDEMNED BY THE~~
3 ~~ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 7-401.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR TITLE 12 OF THE REAL~~
4 ~~PROPERTY ARTICLE.~~

5 ~~(3) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION,~~
6 ~~CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL FOLLOW THE~~
7 ~~PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN TITLE 12 OF THE REAL PROPERTY ARTICLE AND THE~~
8 ~~MARYLAND RULES.~~

9 ~~(B) (1) BEFORE ANY PROPERTY IS CONDEMNED UNDER THIS SECTION~~
10 ~~THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:~~

11 ~~(I) COMPLETE APPROPRIATE ENGINEERING AND OTHER~~
12 ~~STUDIES; AND~~

13 ~~(II) PREPARE A CONSTRUCTION PLAN THAT SHOWS THE~~
14 ~~LOCATION OF THE TRANSIT FACILITY TO BE CONSTRUCTED, IMPROVED, OR~~
15 ~~RECONSTRUCTED.~~

16 ~~(2) AFTER PREPARING THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN, THE~~
17 ~~ADMINISTRATION SHALL PREPARE PLATS THAT INCLUDE:~~

18 ~~(I) THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN;~~

19 ~~(II) THE FEE SIMPLE AND EASEMENT AREA TO BE ACQUIRED;~~
20 ~~AND~~

21 ~~(III) THE PROPERTY LINES OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS WHOSE~~
22 ~~PROPERTY WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE ACQUISITION.~~

23 ~~(3) AFTER THE PLATS ARE PREPARED, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:~~

24 ~~(I) MAKE THE ENGINEERING AND REAL ESTATE STUDIES,~~
25 ~~EVALUATIONS, AND INVESTIGATIONS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE, IN ITS OPINION:~~

26 ~~1. THE FAIR VALUE OF THE PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED;~~
27 ~~AND~~

28 ~~2. THE FAIR COMPENSATION FOR ANY RESULTING~~
29 ~~DAMAGES TO THE REMAINING PROPERTY OF THE OWNER;~~

1 ~~(H) PREPARE AN ESTIMATE OF THIS FAIR VALUE AND FAIR~~
2 ~~COMPENSATION; AND~~

3 ~~(HH) PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF THESE ESTIMATED AMOUNTS AS~~
4 ~~REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.~~

5 ~~(C) (1) THE PLATS PREPARED BY THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL BE FILED~~
6 ~~FOR RECORD WITH THE STATE ARCHIVES.~~

7 ~~(2) PLATS FILED WITH THE STATE ARCHIVES SHALL BE~~
8 ~~ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED AS PROVIDED IN § 9-1011 OF THE STATE~~
9 ~~GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

10 ~~(D) (1) THE PLATS AND ESTIMATES APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION~~
11 ~~SHALL BE KEPT AS PART OF THE PERMANENT RECORDS OF THE ADMINISTRATION.~~

12 ~~(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER STATUTE TO THE CONTRARY:~~

13 ~~(i) EXCEPT AS ALLOWED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, THE PLATS~~
14 ~~PREPARED BY THE ADMINISTRATION ARE NOT PUBLIC INFORMATION OR OPEN TO~~
15 ~~PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN RECORDED; AND~~

16 ~~(ii) EXCEPT WHEN FILED WITH A BOARD OF PROPERTY REVIEW~~
17 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER § 8-327 OF THIS ARTICLE OR A COURT, THE ESTIMATES~~
18 ~~PREPARED BY THE ADMINISTRATION ARE NOT PUBLIC INFORMATION OR OPEN TO~~
19 ~~PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL ALL THE PROPERTY SHOWN ON THE PLATS HAS BEEN~~
20 ~~ACQUIRED OR ITS PRICE DETERMINED.~~

21 ~~(E) (1) AFTER THE PLATS ARE FILED FOR RECORD, THE~~
22 ~~ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATELY SHALL:~~

23 ~~(i) FILE, IN THE COURT FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE~~
24 ~~PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED IS LOCATED, A PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION THAT~~
25 ~~INCLUDES:~~

26 ~~1. THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY OWNER;~~

27 ~~2. THE LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED;~~

28 ~~AND~~

29 ~~3. THE ESTIMATED FAIR VALUE OF THE PROPERTY TO~~
30 ~~BE ACQUIRED AND ESTIMATED FAIR COMPENSATION FOR ANY DAMAGE RESULTING~~
31 ~~TO THE REMAINING PROPERTY OF THE OWNER; AND~~

1 ~~(H) PAY TO THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR INTO THE COURT~~
2 ~~FOR THE OWNER'S BENEFIT, THE ESTIMATED FAIR VALUE AND FAIR COMPENSATION~~
3 ~~SPECIFIED IN THE PETITION.~~

4 ~~(2) ON WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE~~
5 ~~PROPERTY OWNER IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ANY AMOUNT PAID INTO THE COURT~~
6 ~~FOR THE PROPERTY OWNER'S BENEFIT, WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS OF THE~~
7 ~~REQUEST, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER'S RIGHTS, IF THE~~
8 ~~PROPERTY OWNER AGREES TO REPAY TO THE ADMINISTRATION ANY EXCESS OF~~
9 ~~THAT AMOUNT OVER THE FINAL AWARD THAT IS ALLOWED IN THE SUBSEQUENT~~
10 ~~CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS.~~

11 ~~(3) A PAYMENT MADE UNDER THIS SECTION DOES NOT LIMIT IN ANY~~
12 ~~WAY THE AMOUNT OF THE FINAL AWARD THAT MAY BE ALLOWED IN THE~~
13 ~~SUBSEQUENT CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS.~~

14 ~~(F) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,~~
15 ~~AFTER THE PETITION IS FILED AND PAYMENT IS MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF~~
16 ~~THIS SECTION:~~

17 ~~(I) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY TAKE POSSESSION OF THE~~
18 ~~PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED, AS SHOWN ON THE RECORDED PLATS;~~

19 ~~(II) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY PROCEED WITH~~
20 ~~CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE BY THE OWNER; AND~~

21 ~~(III) WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND~~
22 ~~UNDER ITS SUPERVISION, ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UTILITY MAY INSTALL ITS~~
23 ~~FACILITIES ON ANY LAND BEING ACQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN FEE~~
24 ~~SIMPLE.~~

25 ~~(2) UNLESS THE OWNER AGREES OTHERWISE, IF A DWELLING OR~~
26 ~~PLACE OF BUSINESS IS TAKEN, THE RESIDENT OR OCCUPANT NEED NOT VACATE THE~~
27 ~~DWELLING OR PLACE OF BUSINESS UNTIL THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY HAS BEEN~~
28 ~~ACQUIRED BY DEED OR CONDEMNATION.~~

29 ~~(G) (1) AFTER THE PETITION IS FILED AND PAYMENT IS MADE UNDER~~
30 ~~SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL SEEK TO ACQUIRE~~
31 ~~THE PROPERTY BY AMICABLE NEGOTIATION.~~

32 ~~(2) FOR PURPOSES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION~~
33 ~~SHALL DETERMINE THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED AS OF THE DATE~~

1 ~~THE PAYMENT IS MADE TO THE PROPERTY OWNER OR INTO COURT UNDER~~
2 ~~SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.~~

3 ~~(H) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF~~
4 ~~THE ADMINISTRATION IS UNABLE TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTY BY NEGOTIATION, IT~~
5 ~~SHALL CERTIFY THE CASE TO THE BOARD OF PROPERTY REVIEW FOR THE COUNTY~~
6 ~~IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED, AS PROVIDED IN THE MARYLAND RULES.~~

7 ~~(2) A CASE SHALL BE FILED AS A CONDEMNATION CASE IN THE COURT~~
8 ~~FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AND MAY NOT BE HEARD BY~~
9 ~~A BOARD OF PROPERTY REVIEW IF:~~

10 ~~(I) THE ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES THAT VALID,~~
11 ~~MARKETABLE TITLE IS UNOBTAINABLE WITHOUT A COURT PROCEEDING; OR~~

12 ~~(II) A NONRESIDENT HAS AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY AND~~
13 ~~WILL NOT ACCEPT SERVICE OF PROCESS AND AGREE TO THE BOARD'S~~
14 ~~JURISDICTION.~~

15 ~~(I) IF, WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER PAYMENT IS MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF~~
16 ~~THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION FAILS TO ASCERTAIN THE ENTIRE AMOUNT TO~~
17 ~~BE PAID FOR THE PROPERTY AND ACQUIRE TITLE TO IT BY DEED OR CONDEMNATION~~
18 ~~OR, WITHIN THAT SAME 1 YEAR PERIOD, FAILS TO FILE TIMELY A PETITION FOR~~
19 ~~CONDEMNATION AS REQUIRED BY THE MARYLAND RULES, THEN THE FAIR VALUE~~
20 ~~OF THE PROPERTY SHALL BE THE GREATER OF THE VALUES DETERMINED AS OF:~~

21 ~~(1) THE DATE THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY IS ACQUIRED; AND~~

22 ~~(2) THE DATE THE PAYMENT WAS MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF~~
23 ~~THIS SECTION.~~

24 ~~(J) AT THE CONCLUSION OF ALL PROCEEDINGS, THE ADMINISTRATION~~
25 ~~SHALL PAY TO THE PROPERTY OWNER:~~

26 ~~(1) ANY EXCESS OF THE FINAL AWARD OVER THE AMOUNT PAID~~
27 ~~UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

28 ~~(2) INTEREST ON THE EXCESS FROM THE DATE OF PAYMENT UNDER~~
29 ~~SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION AT THE RATE OF 6% A YEAR.~~

30 ~~7-401.2.~~

1 ~~(A) (1) IF THE ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES THAT CONDEMNATION~~
2 ~~UNDER § 7-401.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE IS INAPPROPRIATE, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY~~
3 ~~ACQUIRE PROPERTY BY CONDEMNATION UNDER THIS SECTION, AFTER MAKING~~
4 ~~EVERY REASONABLE AND GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE.~~

5 ~~(2) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION,~~
6 ~~CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL FOLLOW THE~~
7 ~~PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN TITLE 12 OF THE REAL PROPERTY ARTICLE AND THE~~
8 ~~MARYLAND RULES.~~

9 ~~(B) TO CONDEMN PROPERTY UNDER THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION~~
10 ~~SHALL:~~

11 ~~(1) FILE A PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION IN THE COURT FOR THE~~
12 ~~COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED IS LOCATED; AND~~

13 ~~(2) PAY TO THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR INTO THE COURT FOR~~
14 ~~THE OWNER'S BENEFIT, THE AMOUNT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATES TO~~
15 ~~BE THE FAIR VALUE OF THE PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED AND FAIR COMPENSATION~~
16 ~~FOR ANY DAMAGE RESULTING TO THE REMAINING PROPERTY OF THE OWNER.~~

17 ~~(C) AFTER THE PETITION IS FILED AND PAYMENT IS MADE UNDER~~
18 ~~SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY:~~

19 ~~(1) TAKE POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED; AND~~

20 ~~(2) PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE BY THE~~
21 ~~OWNER.~~

22 ~~(D) ON WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE PROPERTY~~
23 ~~OWNER IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ANY AMOUNT PAID INTO THE COURT FOR THE~~
24 ~~PROPERTY OWNER'S BENEFIT WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS OF THE REQUEST,~~
25 ~~WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER'S RIGHTS, IF THE~~
26 ~~PROPERTY OWNER AGREES TO REPAY TO THE ADMINISTRATION ANY EXCESS OF~~
27 ~~THAT AMOUNT OVER THE FINAL AWARD THAT IS ALLOWED IN THE SUBSEQUENT~~
28 ~~CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS.~~

29 ~~(E) A PAYMENT MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT~~
30 ~~LIMIT IN ANY WAY THE AMOUNT OF THE FINAL AWARD THAT MAY BE ALLOWED IN~~
31 ~~THE SUBSEQUENT CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS.~~

~~(F) AT THE CONCLUSION OF ALL PROCEEDINGS, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PAY TO THE PROPERTY OWNER ANY EXCESS OF THE FINAL AWARD OVER THE AMOUNT PAID UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~§ 327.~~

~~(a) (1) There is a board of property review in each county.~~

~~(2) If necessary, additional boards may be appointed in any county.~~

~~(b) (1) Each board of property review of a county has three members who are appointed by the judges of the circuit court for the county.~~

~~(2) Of the members of each board:~~

~~(i) One shall be a lawyer;~~

~~(ii) One shall be a farmer engaged in some agricultural pursuit; and~~

~~(iii) One shall be an engineer or a person with an engineering background and knowledge.~~

~~(3) A member of the General Assembly may not be a member of a board during his term of office.~~

~~(c) (1) Each board member serves for a term of 2 years and until his successor is appointed and qualifies.~~

~~(2) A member appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term serves only for the remainder of that term.~~

~~(d) A board member is entitled to the per diem compensation set by the Supreme Court of Maryland. The compensation shall be uniform statewide and shall be paid monthly by the Commission, on vouchers approved by the clerk of the court.~~

~~(e) Each board shall appoint its chairman and may adopt rules not inconsistent with this title or the Maryland Rules.~~

~~(f) Each county shall provide a suitable place for its board to meet and, whenever possible, the clerk of the court shall provide suitable clerical assistance. If the clerk fails to provide clerical assistance, the Administration OR THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AS APPROPRIATE, shall provide it on request of the board.~~

~~(g) Each board is under the jurisdiction of the court and each member of the board is an officer of the court.~~

~~§ 328.~~

1 (a) ~~Each board of property review:~~

2 (1) ~~Shall hear promptly all cases certified to it by the Commission OR THE~~
3 ~~MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION;~~

4 (2) ~~Shall determine the total amount of the award to be paid by the~~
5 ~~Commission OR THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION; and~~

6 (3) ~~May determine the portion of an award to be paid to persons, other than~~
7 ~~the fee owner, who have an interest in the property.~~

8 (b) ~~Unless all parties in a case certified to a board agree otherwise, the full board~~
9 ~~shall hear and decide the case. If a member of the board is absent or disqualified from~~
10 ~~hearing or deciding any case, the judges of the court that appointed the board shall~~
11 ~~designate another individual with qualifications similar to those of the absent or~~
12 ~~disqualified member to serve instead.~~

13 (c) ~~The board shall determine the fair value of the property to be acquired as of~~
14 ~~the date payment is made under § 7-401.1 OR § 7-401.2 OF THIS ARTICLE OR § 8-323~~
15 ~~of this subtitle.~~

16 ~~§ 329.~~

17 ~~If any party is dissatisfied with the findings or award of a board of property review,~~
18 ~~the case may be appealed to the court. On appeal, the court shall hear and determine the~~
19 ~~case de novo, as provided by law and the Maryland Rules.~~

20 SECTION ~~4~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding § 7-201.1
21 of the Transportation Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, the initial terms of the
22 Board of Directors for Baltimore Core Transit Service established under this Act shall be
23 staggered as follows:

24 (1) the five members appointed by the Governor shall serve an initial term
25 of 4 years; and

26 (2) the members appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Baltimore
27 County Executive, and the Anne Arundel County Executive shall serve an initial term of 3
28 years.

29 SECTION ~~5~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding § 7-201.2
30 of the Transportation Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, the initial terms of the
31 Commuter Services Advisory Board established under this Act shall be staggered as
32 follows:

1 (1) of the six members who reside in areas served by MARC or Maryland
2 Transit Administration commuter buses, three members shall serve an initial term of 4
3 years and three members shall serve an initial term of 3 years;

4 (2) the member who represents riders with accessibility challenges shall
5 serve an initial term of 4 years; and

6 (3) the member who is an employee of a Maryland Transit Administration
7 commuter service contractor and is a member of a labor union that has a collective
8 bargaining agreement with the commuter service contractor shall serve an initial term of
9 3 years.

10 SECTION ~~6~~ 4, AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

11 (a) The Department of Transportation shall contract with the Baltimore
12 Metropolitan Council to complete a technical study on or before December 1, 2026, that:

13 (1) provides findings and considerations on the creation of a rail authority
14 in Maryland, with the intent that this rail authority would be focused on financing for rail
15 services;

16 (2) examines peer models that may provide insight for the findings and
17 considerations, including models in the Commonwealth of Virginia and Austin, Texas;

18 (3) provides potential next steps to consider in the creation of a rail
19 authority in Maryland; and

20 (4) ensures that current rail transit services remain under the Maryland
21 Transit Administration and that funding options for a statewide rail authority do not
22 undermine future financial support for Baltimore Core Transit Services.

23 (b) The Baltimore Metropolitan Council may consult with the Metropolitan
24 Washington Council of Governments in completing the technical study.

25 SECTION ~~7~~ 5, AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Transit
26 Administration shall:

27 (1) reallocate its staff to ensure sufficient support for the Board of Directors
28 for Baltimore Core Transit Service and the Commuter Services Advisory Board; and

29 (2) at a minimum establish the following staff positions:

30 (i) a Deputy Administrator and an analyst for the Board of Directors
31 for Baltimore Core Transit Service;

32 (ii) a Deputy Administrator and an analyst for the Commuter
33 Services Advisory Board; and

1 (iii) a support officer to be shared between the Board of Directors for
 2 Baltimore Core Transit Service and the Commuter Services Advisory Board.

3 ~~SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly~~
 4 ~~determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 2 of this~~
 5 ~~Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland~~
 6 ~~Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.~~

7 ~~SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the~~
 8 ~~Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 2 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified~~
 9 ~~voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2026 for adoption or~~
 10 ~~rejection in accordance with Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general~~
 11 ~~election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on~~
 12 ~~each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and~~
 13 ~~“Against the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the~~
 14 ~~election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed~~
 15 ~~amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further~~
 16 ~~proceedings held in accordance with Article XIV.~~

17 ~~SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act is~~
 18 ~~contingent on the passage of Section 2 of this Act, a constitutional amendment, and its~~
 19 ~~ratification by the voters of the State.~~

20 ~~SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 10 of this~~
 21 ~~Act, Section 3 of this Act shall take effect on the proclamation of the Governor that the~~
 22 ~~constitutional amendment, having received a majority of the votes cast at the general~~
 23 ~~election, has been adopted by the people of Maryland.~~

24 ~~SECTION 12. 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in~~
 25 ~~Sections 9 and 11 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.~~

Approved:

 Governor.

 President of the Senate.

 Speaker of the House of Delegates.