Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 726 (Delegate R. Long, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Maryland Transportation Authority - Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge - Naming

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This bill requires the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), on completion of a new bridge over the Patapsco River as a replacement for the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge, to name the new bridge the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge. The bill also makes conforming changes that are contingent on the completion of a replacement bridge and notice of the opening of the new bridge being submitted to the Department of Legislative Services by December 31, 2031, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Since 1971, MDTA has been responsible for constructing, managing, operating, and improving the State's toll facilities (for example, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the former Francis Scott Key Bridge, and the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial/ Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton (Nice/Middleton) Bridge) and for financing new revenue-producing transportation projects. MDTA is a nonbudgeted State agency, meaning that its budget is not subject to the General Assembly's appropriation process.

Additional Comments: On March 26, 2024, the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed after being struck by a container vessel. Updates regarding the replacement of the bridge can be found here.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 263 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2026
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