



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB292
(Cross-file SB229)
Delegates Lehman, et. all

Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County
Government Consent Requirement - Expansion

Environment & Transportation

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB292 (Cross-file SB229) – Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County Government Consent Requirement - Expansion – FOR the purpose of expanding to all counties in the State a prohibition on State agencies constructing a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge within certain counties without the consent of a majority of the affected counties; and generally relating to the construction of a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge.

Since 1971, MDTA has been responsible for constructing, managing, operating, and improving the State's toll facilities and for financing new revenue-producing transportation projects. MDTA has the authority to set tolls on transportation facilities projects under its supervision. MDTA's transportation facilities projects primarily include bridges, tunnels, and toll highways, such as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway. There are currently two transportation projects in the planning stage that involve tolls: the third span across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Governor's Traffic Relief Plan.

A State agency, including MDTA, must get the approval of the majority of affected governments to construct a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. The bill establishes a similar requirement for all of the counties in Maryland, removing the clause for the aforementioned enumerated counties.

Passage of this legislation will allow the citizens and local governments to have a voice in State proposed transportation projects, ensuring each would meet the needs of the community. It is up to elected officials to find the right balance to ensure that the public gets the value, efficiency and safety it deserves from its transportation network – particularly at a time when our transportation system is in dire need of repair and when resources are scarce.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS HB292 (Cross-file SB229) and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772