



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - Maryland Transit Administration - Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act Revisions)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 15, 2022

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in support of **Senate Bill 61 - Maryland Transit Administration - Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act Revisions)**. I would like to thank Senator Zucker for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

During the 2021 regular General Assembly Session the Legislature took decisive action to require that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) transition to zero-emission buses. Senate Bill 61 works to ensure a *just* transition for employees accustomed to operating and maintaining diesel buses and associated infrastructure. It is crucial to the well-being of MTA employees that they receive the necessary safety and workforce development training to perform their jobs safely and effectively.

The training and apprenticeship programs established in Senate Bill 61 would help ensure that the existing MTA workforce is not left behind by the necessary transition to zero-emission, while serving as a beacon for potential new workers looking to enter an environmentally conscious, and now in demand career.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for Senate Bill 61. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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