



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB0061 - Maryland Transit Administration - Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act Revisions)

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Bill Contact: Senator Craig Zucker

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members across all districts in Montgomery County as well as a number of nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep members of its communities healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. DTMG strongly supports SB0061 because it will ensure that the coming transition to zero-emission buses is equitable for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) labor force.

We must move rapidly to zero-emission vehicles to meet Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction goals and limit the damage from climate change due to global warming. As we make this necessary transition to clean renewable energy, we must protect our workers and ensure that workers benefit from the transition rather than be adversely affected. SB0061 requires that MTA provide job safety and workforce development training for operations and maintenance workers who might otherwise be displaced as the transition to zero-emission buses takes place. The training includes registered apprenticeships and other labor management programs to ensure that workers are not adversely affected by the transition.

An important aspect of this bill is that the Administration is required to provide a transition plan for any State employees adversely affected by the conversion to electric buses. The workers must be able to qualify for other similar employment within the Administration that has commensurate seniority, pay, and benefits, and that no duties or functions are transferred to a contracting entity as a result of the conversion. Additionally, any entity that may operate or maintain the zero-emission buses must provide employee protections equivalent to the protections required by the transition plan. Lastly, the Administration is required to certify that it is adhering to the plan.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB0061 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599