

**Statement of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1300  
HB 491  
House Appropriations Committee  
February 21, 2023**

ATU Local 1300 in Baltimore, representing more than 2,600 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), supports the study of the potential regionalization of transit in the Baltimore area as proposed in HB 491 with two amendments to the legislation.

ATU has participated in the Baltimore Regional Transit Governance and Funding Workgroup throughout the past year. The reorganization of MTA is a complicated process involving funding, governance and other matters that would have a direct impact on workforce issues, including bargaining units, pensions, and many other matters that the labor organization representing the workers at MTA has expertise in.

We therefore call for this bill to be amended to ensure voting representation from ATU on the Commission to Study Establishing a Baltimore Regional Transit Authority established by this legislation.

Amending Section 1(b)(5)(i) to read “~~as a non-voting member,~~ *One representative from Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300*” is preferred but “~~as a non-voting member,~~ *One representative from the labor union representing the plurality of transit workers in the Baltimore metropolitan region*” is also suitable.

If the State of Maryland is going to go through the effort to study the creation of a new transit agency in Baltimore, we should ensure that the agency we design is truly cohesive and regional and serves the whole Baltimore metro area. To this end, we also propose that HB 491 be amended include language to ensure that the commission considers absorbing the regional LOTS into the RTA. If we do not take this step, the process will be a half measure which leaves the Baltimore region with a disjointed transit system.