



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

TRANSIT SERVICES DIVISION

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Roman Steichen, Director

Senate Bill 693: Transportation – Assaults on Public Transit Operators – Report

DATE: March 1, 2023
COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
POSITION: SUPPORT
FROM: Roman Steichen, Director, Transit Services, Frederick County Government

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 693: Transportation – Assaults on Public Transit Operators – Report. As the Director of the Transit Services Division in Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 693 a favorable report.

Transit Services provides fixed route and paratransit services to residents of Frederick County, and our drivers are our most important asset. They serve as first responders, heavy equipment operators, social workers, and sometimes, the only friendly and safe face an older adult may see. While the incidence of driver assaults is low in Frederick County, our colleagues statewide report more and more incidents where their operator safety is compromised. They deserve protection against assaults, both verbal and physical, and we must ensure that their safety is paramount in decision-making.

Public transit drivers provide a unique and critical public service to the Frederick community as well as statewide. Assaults against them are not only injuries to a private citizen, but they are also attacks upon the passengers they transport and against the community they serve. The safety of transit drivers is of utmost importance, and this is a problem that deserves the fullest attention of the MDOT MTA.

We support Senate Bill 693's efforts to study this problem, as well as provide support to local transit operators once the study has been completed.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 693. On behalf of Frederick County Government, I urge a favorable report.

Roman Steichen
Director, Transit Services of Frederick County

