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Anne Arundel County

**OPPOSE** – Do not vote in favor of HB1070 in committee.

HB1070 - Maryland Transportation Authority - Tolls - Collection and Use

Maryland and Anne Arundel County residents do not need more taxes (yes, fees paid to the Government are taxes).

Notes from the Fiscal and Policy Note (**BOLD** emphasis mine):

State Fiscal Effect:

Maryland Transportation Authority and Transportation Trust Fund

While not explicitly required by the bill, MDTA advises that the transfer of \$75.0 million annually to TTF beginning on July 1, 2025, **likely requires (1) toll rates to be increased sooner than they otherwise would be under current law and/or (2) the issuance of additional bonds under the authority granted by the bill.** Thus, nonbudgeted revenues for MDTA are anticipated to increase significantly (potentially by \$75.0 million or more annually to ensure that MDTA can complete the required transfers) beginning as early as fiscal 2025. **A precise estimate of the increase in nonbudgeted revenues is unknown.** The ultimate impact depends on numerous unknown factors, including the extent to which MDTA increases toll rates, whether MDTA chooses to implement any discounts for daily commuters or Maryland E-ZPass holders, and the timing and amount of any additional bonds issued by MDTA.

*State Agency Toll*

Costs To the extent that MDTA increases its tolls in order to be able to complete the required transfers to TTF, expenditures for State agencies that regularly use, or reimburse their employees for using, MDTA's toll facilities increase to pay the higher toll rates. **The magnitude of any such impact, however, is unknown**

Local Expenditures: Similar to the effect discussed above for State agencies, expenditures for local governments that regularly use, or reimburse their employees for using, MDTA's toll facilities may increase to pay higher toll rates; however, **the magnitude of any such impact is unknown.**

Small Business Effect: **Similar to the effect discussed above on State agencies and local governments, small businesses that regularly use MDTA's toll facilities may incur an increase in costs to pay tolls** to the extent that MDTA increases its tolls as a result of the bill.

Maryland and specifically Anne Arundel County residents and businesses are currently struggling financially. We cannot at this time put an **UNKNOWN** financial burden on them.

In addition, that creates an **UNKNOWN** financial expense on state and local government agencies that must be accounted for during their budget planning and tracking.

I request that you **DO NOT VOTE IN FAVOR** of HB1070 in committee