



Testimony to the Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland Transportation Authority - Tolls - Collection and Use (Maryland Toll Rate Reform Act of 2024)
HB1070 Position: Favorable

The Honorable Delegate Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Korman and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a people-centered movement to expand economic rights, housing justice, and community reinvestment for working families, low-income communities, and communities of color. Economic Action Maryland provides direct assistance today while passing legislation and regulations to create systemic change in the future.

I appreciate the goals of HB1070 and recognize the need to generate revenue for transportation projects near Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA). I also understand that tolls are an effective mechanism to do so.

However, technical glitches in [EZ pass](#) and [toll](#) management and oversight led to more than 80,000 consumers being overcharged by sometimes tens of thousands of dollars. Tolls can be regressive if not appropriately [designed](#) and if discounts are not automatically provided for low-income and vulnerable groups.

For these reasons, we believe that discounts for certain populations are necessary to offset the potential costs to consumers that may be passed on via the tolls.

Therefore we urge the adoption of the amendment below:

4 (II) THE AUTHORITY SHALL ~~CONSIDER~~:
5 1. OFFERING DISCOUNT RATES FOR SENIORS, DAILY
6 COMMUTERS, LOW-INCOME STATE RESIDENTS, MARYLAND E-ZPASS HOLDERS,
7 AND STATE RESIDENTS WHO LIVE IN THE VICINITY OF THE TRANSPORTATION
8 FACILITY; AND
9 2. INSERT [**CONSIDER**] THE DISCOUNT RATES OFFERED IN DETERMINING
10 THE NEAR OPTIMAL TOLL RATE

For these reasons, we support HB1070 favorable with the proposed amendment stated above and to work with the committee to design appropriate discounts for vulnerable populations.

Best,

Marceline White
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