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**HB 450 Maryland Transit Administration - Disability Reduced Fare Program - Renewal
for Permanently Disabled Individuals
House Appropriations and the Environment and Transportation Committees
February 25, 2025
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Barnes, Chair Korman, and members of the House Appropriations and Environment and Transportation Committees. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I serve as the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of our 850,000 members across the state, AARP Maryland is pleased to support **HB 450**, which would require the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to automatically renew the Disability Reduced Fare Program certification for enrollees who are permanently disabled.

Reliable and affordable public transportation is critical to ensuring that older Marylanders and individuals with disabilities can maintain their independence and remain active members of their communities. Many older adults in Maryland experience mobility challenges and rely on public transit for access to essential services such as medical care, grocery shopping, social engagements, and other daily necessities. The current renewal process for the Disability Reduced Fare Program can be burdensome, particularly for those with permanent disabilities who must repeatedly submit documentation to maintain their eligibility.

By streamlining the renewal process, HB 450 reduces unnecessary administrative hurdles and ensures that those who need this essential benefit can continue to access public transit without interruption. Many older Marylanders, including veterans and individuals with lifelong disabilities, live on fixed incomes and face financial hardships. This legislation helps prevent undue barriers to transportation and enhances their ability to live with dignity and autonomy.

AARP Maryland appreciates Delegate Guyton's leadership in sponsoring this important legislation. We urge a favorable report on **HB 450** to support Marylanders with permanent disabilities, including the many older adults who rely on accessible and affordable transit options. If you need further information, please contact me at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

