

**HB 288\_MTBMA\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Sakata

Position: FAV



January 30, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 288 – FAVORABLE – Maryland Transportation Authority – Tolls, Fees, and Other Charges – Temporary Adjustments**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 288 increases the maximum duration – from 180 days to 300 days – of a Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) emergency status determination, which allows MDTA to adopt temporary adjustments to tolls, fees, mileage rate ranges, pricing periods, toll zones, or other charges without meeting specified public notice and comment requirements.

MTBMA supports this departmental bill because it will give the MDTA additional flexibility that is necessary during emergency situations. No one could have foreseen what happened last year to the Key Bridge. It is during those unprecedented times that agencies such as the MDTA need to be given movement. This flexibility can help ensure continued funding for infrastructure projects, reduce disruptions caused by unforeseen circumstances, and provide more stability for ongoing construction and maintenance efforts. The bill enables quicker financial responses to emergencies, ensuring that critical transportation projects remain funded and operational without delays.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 288.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", is written over a large, stylized blue scribble.

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

# **HB0288 - MDTA - LOS - Tolls Fees and Other Charges**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV



Wes Moore  
Governor  
Aruna Miller  
Lieutenant Governor  
Paul J. Wiedefeld  
Secretary

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 288 – Maryland Transportation Authority – Tolls, Fees, and Other Charges – Temporary Adjustments***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 288 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Currently, if the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) determines that an emergency status exists, it can adopt temporary adjustments to tolls, fees, and mileage ranges that can take effect immediately on adoption by the MDTA Board or on the effective date established by the MDTA Board. When the emergency status expires, the temporary adjustments end. By law, an emergency status determination may not exceed 180 days. House Bill 288 increases the maximum duration of an emergency status determination during which the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) may authorize a temporary adjustment of these fees to 300 days.

The current 180-day limitation on an emergency status determination does not provide sufficient time for MDTA staff to fulfill the requirements of the standard toll setting process in statute. Increasing the maximum duration allowed to 300 days provides the needed time to complete a toll adjustment analysis, develop a toll adjustment proposal, prepare public hearing materials and notifications, conduct public hearings, and allow for adequate public comment period in accordance with the existing statute.

Uncertainties with the timing of emergency federal funds or other financial resources to rebuild or repair damaged structures could create an emergency that requires tolls, fees, or mileage rate ranges to be adjusted unexpectedly. MDOT would like to note for the committee that the MDTA Board supports this legislation and approved the legislative concept during the December 19, 2025 Board meeting.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee issue House Bill 288 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Ryon  
Manager, Government Relations  
Maryland Transportation Authority  
410-387-5253

Matt Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090