

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

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Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



SB 457 - Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish Subclasses and Set Separate Rates for Land and Improvements to Land

Favorable

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

February 18th, 2026

ATU Local 1300 represents over 3,000 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This includes bus operators, bus mechanics, rail operators, rail maintenance workers, and more. Our members keep Maryland moving every day.

Local 1300 strongly supports increasing the flexibility of local governments to find new, more equitable, ways to fund vital services like transportation. We are now convinced that land value taxation has a strong supportive relationship with transit oriented development. Reliable and frequent transit service drives up land values, but certain tax policies may fail to adequately recapture the full benefit of transit service and infrastructure investments. Land value taxes do not fall into that same trap and encourage denser building in order to maximize a developers return on land costs. SB 457 would not mandate that any jurisdiction or locality change their existing tax policy, but it would allow jurisdictions to begin to set their tax rates more precisely around the outcomes they are hoping to achieve.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 457.