

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

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Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



HB 1344 - Maryland Transit Administration - Locally Operated Transit Systems - Study

Favorable with Amendments

House Environment and Transportation Committee

March 5th, 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.

Many of the Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) systems in Maryland are privatized and operated by third-party private contractors. For historical budget concerns and anti-labor sentiment, these LOTS systems were often created in an effort to drive down the wages and compensation of unionized transit workers for the state's large regional systems (e.g. WMATA & MTA). This isn't speculation, it was openly reported on at the time.

Some of these systems have modernized their approach since then and brought the services back in house. We believe those tend to be the best run services with the most stable workforces and experienced operators. Any study of the LOTS system seeking to understand their role in the state must incorporate the following information into its analysis:

- The starting and top wage rates for bus operators.
- The retirement benefits provided to employees.
- The year over year employee turnover rate and the average seniority of all employees.

We believe that this information may paint a better understanding of the LOTS systems. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report with our suggested amendments.