

Uber Technologies

Testimony Before the Maryland General Assembly
Committee on Transportation and the Environment
February 3, 2026

Public Hearing:
HB0018 - Transportation Network Companies - Transportation Network Operators -
Minimum Payments for Passenger Trips

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Members of the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Uber Technologies, Inc.
Date: February 3, 2026

RE: OPPOSE – HB 0018: Transportation Network Companies – Minimum Payments for Passenger Trips

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,
Uber respectfully opposes HB 0018. While we support policies that ensure fair earnings for drivers, the mandates proposed in this bill are based on extreme rate structures that would jeopardize the affordability of rideshare for Marylanders and ultimately reduce earning opportunities for the very drivers the bill seeks to support.

Last year, the General Assembly passed HB 861 (Chapter 506), which established a robust framework to ensure drivers have transparency into their earnings and required Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) to submit detailed earnings and fare data to the Public Service Commission (PSC). The first comprehensive report under this law is due this year. We suggest allowing the PSC the opportunity to receive and analyze this upcoming data to ensure any future policy is fully informed by the most recent market insights.

We can look to Seattle's 2020 pay standards as a helpful case study for Maryland. Over the last five years, Seattle has become one of the most expensive rideshare markets in the country, with fares rising by more than 40%. Unfortunately, these higher costs led to a significant decrease in rider demand. As a result, many drivers now spend more time waiting for trips, which has led to lower hourly earnings despite the higher per-trip rates. As Seattle driver Kelly C. observed, she is now 'working more hours to earn a similar amount' because the consistent, back-to-back rides she relied on have slowed down

Rideshare has become a critical link in Maryland's infrastructure. Maryland riders take hundreds of thousands of trips every month to medical appointments, hospitals, pharmacies, and transit hubs—often as their only reliable transportation option. HB 0018 would make Maryland one of the most expensive rideshare markets in the nation, with projected price increases of nearly 40%. Such a spike will inevitably reduce demand, hurting the students, seniors, and workers who rely on Uber, while diminishing the total earning pool for Maryland drivers.

We urge the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 0018.