

Bill No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by: Norris  
Typed by: Sumer  
Stored – 02/09/26  
Proofread by \_\_\_\_\_  
Checked by \_\_\_\_\_

By: **Delegate Hornberger**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Planning – ~~District of Columbia~~ Retrocession – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Planning, in consultation with  
4 certain agencies and stakeholders, to study the feasibility and potential economic  
5 impacts of the retrocession of ~~the District of Columbia~~ to the State of Maryland,  
6 excluding the federal enclave of the National Capital Service Area; and generally  
7 relating to a study on the retrocession of ~~the District of Columbia~~.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

9 That: this General Assembly previously passed “An Act concerning the territory of Columbia and the City of  
Washington” (the “1791 Act”) and now wishes to evaluate a partial retrocession of the territory comprising  
Columbia such that it would economically and politically return to Maryland.

10 (a) The Maryland Department of ~~Planning~~ shall study and make  
11 recommendations on the potential economic and fiscal impacts of the retrocession of ~~the~~  
12 ~~District of Columbia~~ to the State of Maryland.

13 (b) The study shall exclude the federal enclave of the National Capital Service  
14 Area, which includes the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the U.S. Supreme Court, and  
15 principal federal executive departments, which would remain under Congress’ exclusive jurisdiction  
pursuant to the tenor and effect of the 1791 Act

16 (c) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the  
17 Department shall:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) estimate the impact on State income, sales, and corporate tax and any  
2 other revenues resulting from the addition of ~~District~~ residents and businesses to the State;  
Columbia's

3 (2) evaluate the cost and logistics of assuming responsibility for:

4 (i) the maintenance and operation of the ~~District's~~ transportation  
5 infrastructure and public transit systems; Columbia's

6 (ii) the administration and funding of the ~~District's~~ public school  
7 system; and Columbia's

8 (iii) the provision of public safety and emergency services;

9 (3) assess the impact of assuming or restructuring ~~the District's~~ municipal  
10 debt, pension obligations, and other long-term liabilities; Columbia's

11 (4) analyze the impact on the State's labor market, housing costs, and  
12 overall gross State product;

13 (5) identify potential barriers to integrating the District's laws,  
14 professional licenses, and regulatory requirements into the Annotated Code of Maryland;  
15 and

16 (6) identify necessary modifications to the Maryland Constitution or the  
17 Maryland Charter for any impacted counties.

18 (d) In conducting the study, the Department shall consult with the following  
19 stakeholders:

20 (1) the Comptroller of Maryland;

21 (2) the Maryland Department of Budget and Management;

22 (3) the Office of the Attorney General;

23 (4) representatives from the District of Columbia government;

24 (5) representatives from Montgomery County and Prince George's County;

1           (6)    constitutional and legislative policy experts; and

2           (7)    any other stakeholders the Department considers appropriate.

3           (e)    On or before December 1, 2026, the Maryland Department of Planning shall  
4 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation  
5 Committee and the House Appropriations Committee in accordance with § 2–1257 of the  
6 State Government Article.

7           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2026.