

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

126 W. 25th Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Telephone: 410-889-3566 Facsimile: 410-243-5541
www.atu1300.org

Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



HB 90 - Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Commercial and Industrial Property Favorable

Senate Finance Committee
March 5th, 2025

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. Special taxation districts, particularly those in areas of denser development that may greatly benefit from increased services and improvements, may be able to pay for those improvements with local tax dollars allowed under this bill.

Though we support the principle, we also encourage stronger restrictions on what types of State or County transportation improvements are allowed in "Title 21, Subtitle 7, of the Local Government Article." That list provides many transportation improvement options that funding may be used for that are not mass transit. We think road improvements in the types of areas targeted by the bill (e.g. denser areas) should not be reinvesting into road usage. The language of HB 90 would also not allow that money raised under the special taxing district to pay for ongoing operating costs of increased frequent service, only capital improvements, which limits its effectiveness.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 90, but consider our suggested modifications.