

# HOUSE BILL 491

R2

3lr2041  
CF 3lr2050

---

By: **Delegates Bridges, Boyce, Edelson, Wells, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2023

Assigned to: Appropriations and Environment and Transportation

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Commission to Study Establishing a Baltimore Regional**  
3 **Transit Authority**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission to Study Establishing a Baltimore Regional  
5 Transit Authority; requiring the Commission to conduct a comprehensive study of  
6 establishing a Baltimore Regional Transit Authority; and generally relating to the  
7 Commission to Study Establishing a Baltimore Regional Transit Authority.

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

10 (a) There is a Commission to Study Establishing a Baltimore Regional Transit  
11 Authority.

12 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

13 (1) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

14 (2) the Maryland Transit Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;

15 (3) (i) three members appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City;

16 (ii) two members appointed by the Baltimore County Executive;

17 (iii) one member appointed by the Anne Arundel County Executive;

18 and

19 (iv) one member appointed by the Howard County Executive;

20 (4) (i) one Senator appointed by the President of the Senate; and

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) one Delegate appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

2 (5) the following members appointed by the Governor:

3 (i) as a nonvoting member, one representative from a transit worker  
4 labor union;

5 (ii) two representatives from major employment centers within the  
6 geographic area of the potential regional transit authority;

7 (iii) one representative from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council;

8 (iv) one representative from the transit–riding community;

9 (v) one representative from the Greater Baltimore Committee;

10 (vi) one representative from the Central Maryland Transportation  
11 Alliance;

12 (vii) one representative from the Greater Washington Partnership;  
13 and

14 (viii) one representative from the Transportation Association of  
15 Maryland.

16 (c) (1) The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive study of establishing a  
17 Baltimore Regional Transit Authority.

18 (2) The study shall:

19 (i) define the purpose and goals of the transit authority, including  
20 how the transit authority would:

21 1. serve the needs of the community; and

22 2. support economic development;

23 (ii) outline the specific powers and responsibilities of the transit  
24 authority, including the authority to:

25 1. acquire and operate transit systems;

26 2. levy taxes or fees; and

27 3. enter into contracts with other entities;

- 1 (iii) specify the structure and governance of the transit authority,  
2 including:
- 3 1. the number and composition of board members and local  
4 members;
- 5 2. strategies for seeking public input; and
- 6 3. sources and processes of oversight;
- 7 (iv) 1. identify potential impacts to existing labor and service  
8 contracts with the Maryland Transit Administration and locally operated transit systems;  
9 and
- 10 2. develop a workforce model and best practices to ensure  
11 staff well-being and expertise in delivering high quality service;
- 12 (v) 1. identify potential funding sources for the transit  
13 authority, including eligibility for federal and State grants and the ability to be a direct  
14 recipient of Federal Transit Administration funds; and
- 15 2. develop a funding model with recommendations on  
16 potential transit revenues, including taxes, fees, fares, and innovative revenue sources;
- 17 (vi) obtain input from stakeholders, including local jurisdictions,  
18 labor unions, community organizations, large employers, local businesses, and transit  
19 riders and advocates, to ensure the transit authority meets the needs of the community;
- 20 (vii) 1. consider any potential impacts on existing transit systems  
21 or agencies; and
- 22 2. offer strategies to minimize disruptions or negative  
23 impacts to existing transit systems or agencies; and
- 24 (viii) ensure compliance with relevant federal, State, and local laws  
25 and regulations by consulting with legal counsel to ensure the transit authority would be  
26 properly established and operated as a direct recipient of Federal Transit Administration  
27 funding.
- 28 (d) On or before October 31, 2024, the Commission shall submit a report of its  
29 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the  
30 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
32 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2025,  
33 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
34 of no further force and effect.