

HOUSE BILL 635

R2, R1

2lr2252

By: **Delegates James, Beidle, Bohanan, Clagett, Conway, DeBoy, Olszewski, and Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Creation of Regional Transit Financing Authorities**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Creation of Regional
4 Transit Financing Authorities; requiring the Task Force to study and make
5 recommendations concerning the establishment of regional transit financing
6 authorities for a certain purpose; specifying the membership and staffing of the
7 Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Task Force;
8 prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but
9 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
10 submit an interim and a final report of its findings and recommendations by
11 certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
12 to the Task Force to Study the Creation of Regional Transit Financing
13 Authorities.

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, Maryland is a diverse state and requires a transportation network
16 to serve multiple purposes, from urban to suburban to rural; and

17 WHEREAS, Transportation is essential to provide access to housing, jobs,
18 health care, education, recreation, shopping, and other vital services, and to facilitate
19 the movement of goods in commerce; and

20 WHEREAS, Accessible, rapid, and reliable public transit is important to the
21 economic vitality and overall quality of life of communities in Maryland; and

22 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation
23 Funding performed a review and evaluation of, among other issues, the current State
24 funding sources and structure of the Maryland Transportation Trust Fund and transit
25 construction and maintenance funding needs; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Commission determined that the revenue sources for the
2 Maryland Transportation Trust Fund have not kept pace with inflation nor are they
3 sufficient to meet system obligations and expansion needs; and

4 WHEREAS, The Commission recommended that regional transit financing
5 authorities be studied as a potential means to generate additional revenue to meet
6 growing transit funding needs throughout the State; and

7 WHEREAS, The Commission found that regional transit financing authorities
8 would allow for a variety of funding sources to be merged for the purposes of funding
9 transit to support critically needed transit investments; now, therefore,

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That:

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Creation of Regional Transit
13 Financing Authorities.

14 (b) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations concerning the
15 establishment of regional transit financing authorities as a potential means to
16 generate additional revenue to meet growing transit funding needs throughout the
17 State.

18 (c) The Task Force consists of the following members:

19 (1) (i) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
20 President of the Senate; and

21 (ii) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the
22 Speaker of the House; and

23 (2) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

24 (i) the Secretary of Transportation;

25 (ii) the Secretary of Budget and Management;

26 (iii) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development;

27 (iv) the Secretary of Planning;

28 (v) a representative of the Washington Metropolitan Transit
29 Authority;

30 (vi) three representatives from the business community,
31 including two representatives of statewide or regional organizations;

- 1 (vii) two representatives of the transit community;
- 2 (viii) two representatives of the environmental community,
3 including one representative with a background in smart growth;
- 4 (ix) a representative of the American Automobile Association;
- 5 (x) a representative of the freight rail industry;
- 6 (xi) a representative of the motor carrier industry;
- 7 (xii) two representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 8 (xiii) a representative of the transportation construction industry;
- 9 (xiv) two representatives of the Maryland Municipal League;
- 10 (xv) two representatives of labor unions; and
- 11 (xvi) two representatives of rural areas in the State.

12 (d) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force after
13 consultation with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

14 (e) To the extent practicable, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
15 House, and the Governor shall attempt to ensure regional, economic, ethnic, and
16 gender diversity when appointing members to the Task Force.

17 (f) A member of the Task Force:

18 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

19 (2) is entitled to reimbursement of expenses under the Standard State
20 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21 (g) The Department of Transportation shall provide staff support to the Task
22 Force.

23 (h) On or before January 1, 2013, the Task Force shall submit an interim
24 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of
25 the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

26 (i) On or before November 1, 2013, the Task Force shall submit a final
27 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of
28 the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

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1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,
3 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.