

SENATE BILL 465

R2
SB 630/19 – B&T

3lr2050
CF HB 491

By: **Senator M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2023

CHAPTER _____

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;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (iii) one member appointed by the Anne Arundel County Executive;
 2 and

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

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

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

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

7 (i) ~~as a nonvoting member,~~ one representative from a labor union
 8 representing a plurality of transit ~~worker-labor union~~ workers in the Baltimore
 9 metropolitan region;

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

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

13 (iv) one representative from the transit-riding community;

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

15 (vi) one representative from the Central Maryland Transportation
 16 Alliance;

17 (vii) one representative from the Greater Washington Partnership;
 18 and

19 (viii) one representative from the Transportation Association of
 20 Maryland.

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

23 (2) The study shall:

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

26 1. serve the needs of the community; and

27 2. support economic development;

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

- 1 1. acquire and operate transit systems;
- 2 2. levy taxes or fees; and
- 3 3. enter into contracts with other entities;

4 (iii) specify the structure and governance of the transit authority,
5 including:

- 6 1. the number and composition of board members and local
7 members;
- 8 2. strategies for seeking public input; and
- 9 3. sources and processes of oversight;

10 (iv) 1. identify potential impacts to existing labor and service
11 contracts with the Maryland Transit Administration and locally operated transit systems;
12 and

13 2. develop a workforce model and best practices to ensure
14 staff well-being and expertise in delivering high quality service;

15 (v) 1. identify potential funding sources for the transit
16 authority, including eligibility for federal and State grants and the ability to be a direct
17 recipient of Federal Transit Administration funds; and

18 2. develop a funding model with recommendations on
19 potential transit revenues, including taxes, fees, fares, and innovative revenue sources;

20 (vi) obtain input from stakeholders, including local jurisdictions,
21 labor unions, community organizations, large employers, local businesses, and transit
22 riders and advocates, to ensure the transit authority meets the needs of the community;

23 (vii) 1. consider any potential impacts on existing transit systems
24 or agencies; and

25 2. offer strategies to minimize disruptions or negative
26 impacts to existing transit systems or agencies; and

27 (viii) ensure compliance with relevant federal, State, and local laws
28 and regulations by consulting with legal counsel to ensure the transit authority would be
29 properly established and operated as a direct recipient of Federal Transit Administration
30 funding.

1 (d) On or before October 31, 2024, the Commission shall submit a report of its
2 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
3 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2025,
6 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
7 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.