

SENATE BILL 526

R2

0lr2594
CF 0lr1017

By: **Senators Beidle, Augustine, Elfreth, Patterson, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2020

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Private Sector Transportation Projects Ombudsman –**
3 **Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Private Sector Transportation Projects Ombudsman
5 within the Department of Transportation; requiring the Secretary of Transportation
6 to designate an individual to serve as Ombudsman; requiring the Ombudsman to
7 respond to concerns, complaints, and other inquiries from certain entities regarding
8 certain private sector transportation projects; providing that the Ombudsman is an
9 employee of the Department; requiring the Department to provide the Ombudsman
10 with sufficient resources to respond to all inquiries in an accurate and timely
11 manner; requiring the Department to include the name and contact information of
12 the Ombudsman on the Department’s website and in a certain document; and
13 generally relating to the designation of a Private Sector Transportation Projects
14 Ombudsman.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Transportation
17 Section 2–113
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Transportation**

23 **2–113.**

24 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “OMBUDSMAN” MEANS THE PRIVATE SECTOR**
25 **TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS OMBUDSMAN.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) THERE IS A PRIVATE SECTOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**
2 **OMBUDSMAN.**

3 **(C) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL DESIGNATE AN INDIVIDUAL TO SERVE AS**
4 **THE OMBUDSMAN.**

5 **(2) THE OMBUDSMAN SHALL RESPOND TO CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS,**
6 **AND OTHER INQUIRIES FROM STATE RESIDENTS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,**
7 **AND OTHER ENTITIES REGARDING PRIVATE SECTOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**
8 **THAT ARE BEING DEVELOPED OR TESTED WITHIN THE STATE.**

9 **(D) (1) THE OMBUDSMAN IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

10 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE OMBUDSMAN WITH**
11 **SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO ALL INQUIRIES IN AN ACCURATE AND**
12 **TIMELY MANNER.**

13 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE THE NAME AND CONTACT**
14 **INFORMATION OF THE OMBUDSMAN:**

15 **(1) ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE; AND**

16 **(2) IN THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2020.