

HOUSE BILL 1236

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By: **Delegates Solomon, Lopez, Acevero, B. Barnes, Barron, Boyce, Bridges, Carr, Charkoudian, Conaway, Corderman, Crutchfield, D.M. Davis, Ebersole, W. Fisher, Fraser-Hidalgo, Hornberger, Kelly, Korman, Krimm, Lehman, R. Lewis, Lierman, Love, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Qi, Shetty, Stewart, Terrasa, Wells, Wilkins, K. Young, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transit – Maryland Area Regional Commuter Train – Expansion of Service**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to engage in good faith
4 negotiations with the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and
5 appropriate train companies to reach a written agreement on a pilot program to
6 establish Maryland Area Regional Commuter train service between certain train
7 stations in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia; requiring
8 the Administration to consult with certain entities to determine the most effective
9 means to establish train service between certain train stations; requiring that the
10 good faith negotiations and consultation include discussions of a certain train service
11 schedule; requiring the Administration to report certain information to certain
12 committees of the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the
13 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the expansion of Maryland Area
14 Regional Commuter train service.

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, Improved regional rail connectivity can enhance job access and
17 opportunity for Maryland residents and existing and growing job centers; and

18 WHEREAS, Such connectivity can also provide access for District of Columbia and
19 Virginia residents to jobs in Maryland; and

20 WHEREAS, Implementation of regional rail makes use of existing and planned track
21 infrastructure to enhance regional mobility, providing a cost-effective approach for
22 delivering transportation options and reducing emissions associated with the
23 transportation network; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (a) The Maryland Transit Administration shall:

4 (1) engage in good faith negotiations with the District of Columbia, the
5 Commonwealth of Virginia, and the appropriate railroad companies to reach a written
6 agreement on a pilot program to establish Maryland Area Regional Commuter train service
7 between Union Station in the District of Columbia and Alexandria Station in the
8 Commonwealth of Virginia; and

9 (2) consult with regional private entities, including leading employers,
10 labor representatives, rider advisory committees, and regional planning boards, to
11 determine the most effective means to establish Maryland Area Regional Commuter train
12 service between Union Station in the District of Columbia and Alexandria Station in the
13 Commonwealth of Virginia, including train service scheduling and funding.

14 (b) The good faith negotiations and consultation required under subsection (a) of
15 this section shall include discussions of a Maryland Area Regional Commuter train service
16 schedule that includes:

17 (1) two morning trains traveling from Union Station through the L'Enfant
18 Plaza Station in the District of Columbia on to the Crystal City Station and ending at
19 Alexandria Station in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

20 (2) two evening trains traveling from Alexandria Station through the
21 Crystal City Station in the Commonwealth of Virginia on to the L'Enfant Plaza Station and
22 ending at Union Station in the District of Columbia.

23 (c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, on or before December 1
24 each year, the Maryland Transit Administration shall submit a report in accordance with
25 § 2-1257 of the State Government Article to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,
26 the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Environment and Transportation
27 Committee.

28 (2) The reports required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall:

29 (i) summarize the best efforts and discussions undertaken to comply
30 with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section;

31 (ii) identify solutions to any impediments to establishing Maryland
32 Area Regional Commuter train service between Union Station in the District of Columbia
33 and Alexandria Station in the Commonwealth of Virginia;

34 (iii) if necessary, list the statutory changes necessary to establish
35 Maryland Area Regional Commuter train service between Union Station in the District of

1 Columbia and Alexandria Station in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

2 (iv) provide any other information that the Maryland Transit
3 Administration considers necessary for successful run-through service.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2022,
6 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
7 of no further force and effect.