

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Speaker Jones:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 1236 – Transit – Maryland Area Regional Commuter Train – Expansion of Service.

For two months, my Administration has been singularly focused on battling the most serious public health crisis to hit our great State in over a century. While we have made significant progress in stemming the tide of this deadly COVID-19 virus, we undoubtedly have a long, tough road ahead in getting our economy back to where it was prior to this crisis. Earlier last month, after Comptroller Peter Franchot announced that the State will experience a \$2.8 billion shortfall when we begin to recover from this crisis, I immediately implemented a number of significant fiscal measures. I directed all state agencies to implement immediate budget and hiring freezes, and further directed the Department of Budget and Management to develop significant state agencies budget reduction targets for FY 2021.

While it is certain that the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) budget will be out of balance in both FY 2020 and FY 2021, the only current unknown is the magnitude of MDOT's revenue and budget shortfalls. For this reason, and to maintain current public transportation services, implementation of House Bill 1236 is not financially feasible nor responsible at this time.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1236.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor