

HOUSE BILL 964

R1
HB 214/15 – ENV

6lr2741

By: **Delegates Metzgar, Anderson, Angel, Bromwell, Carter, Conaway, Ghrist, Glass, Grammer, Hill, Hornberger, Kipke, Long, McComas, McConkey, McDonough, Miele, B. Robinson, Shoemaker, Simonaire, Sophocleus, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2016
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority – Francis Scott Key Bridge – Toll Discount**
3 **Plans**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority to offer to users of
5 the Francis Scott Key Bridge the same toll discount plans that the Authority offered
6 to users of the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge on a certain date; and generally
7 relating to toll discount plans for users of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Transportation
10 Section 4–312(a)(2) and (b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 4–312(c)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

20
21 4–312.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (2) As to all or any part of any transportation facilities project, the
2 Authority may:

3 (i) Fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and other
4 charges and revenues for its use or for its services; and

5 (ii) Contract with any person who desires its use for any purpose and
6 fix the terms, conditions, rentals, rates, fees, tolls, or other charges or revenues for this use.

7 (b) The rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and other charges and revenues designated as
8 security for any bonds issued under this subtitle shall be fixed and adjusted from time to
9 time, either with respect to a particular transportation facilities project or in respect of the
10 aggregate of the charges and revenues from other transportation facilities projects under
11 the control of the Authority, as may be specified by law or in any applicable resolution or
12 trust agreement, so as to provide funds that, together with any other available revenues,
13 are sufficient as long as the bonds are outstanding and unpaid to:

14 (1) Pay the costs of maintaining, repairing, and operating the
15 transportation facilities project or projects financed in whole or in part by one or more series
16 of outstanding and unpaid bonds, to the extent that payment is not otherwise provided;

17 (2) Pay the principal of and the interest on these bonds as they become due
18 and payable;

19 (3) Create reasonable reserves that are anticipated will be needed for these
20 purposes; and

21 (4) Provide funds for paying the cost of replacements, renewals, and
22 improvements.

23 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the rentals, rates, fees,
24 tolls, and other charges and revenues are not subject to supervision or regulation by any
25 instrumentality, agency, or unit of this State or any of its political subdivisions.

26 (2) This subtitle does not permit the exercise of any power or the
27 undertaking of any activity that would conflict with the provisions and limitations of the
28 federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964.

29 (3) Tolls for the use of the bridge carrying the John F. Kennedy Memorial
30 Highway over the Susquehanna River may not be less than the comparable tolls charged
31 for the use of the Susquehanna River Bridge.

32 **(4) THE AUTHORITY SHALL OFFER TO USERS OF THE FRANCIS SCOTT**
33 **KEY BRIDGE THE SAME TOLL DISCOUNT PLANS THAT THE AUTHORITY OFFERED TO**
34 **USERS OF THE THOMAS J. HATEM MEMORIAL BRIDGE ON JANUARY 1, 2016.**

1 **[(4)] (5)** Prior to fixing or revising tolls on any part of any transportation
2 facilities project, the Authority shall provide, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
3 Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance
4 Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee
5 information on the proposed toll charges, including:

6 (i) The annual revenues generated by the toll charges;

7 (ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and

8 (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2016.