

Chapter 420

(Senate Bill 319)

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Transit Administration – State Employees ~~Subject to Collective Bargaining~~ – Free Ridership
(Transit Benefit for State Employees)**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to provide certain ridership services to certain ~~State permanent~~ employees of the Executive Branch of State government on certain transit vehicles; prohibiting the Administration from seeking certain fees or reimbursement; authorizing the Administration to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Department of Budget and Management to report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; ~~defining a certain term;~~ and generally relating to the Maryland Transit Administration and ridership for State employees.

BY adding to

Article – Transportation

Section 7–711

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

7–711.

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELIGIBLE STATE EMPLOYEE” MEANS A STATE EMPLOYEE SUBJECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNDER TITLE 3 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE OR § 7–601 OF THIS TITLE.~~

~~(B)~~ (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE RIDERSHIP ON TRANSIT VEHICLES TO ANY ~~ELIGIBLE STATE~~ PERMANENT EMPLOYEE IN ANY UNIT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING A UNIT WITH AN INDEPENDENT PERSONNEL SYSTEM.

(2) THE SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLY TO TRANSIT VEHICLES THAT ARE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION’S:

- (I) LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM;

- (II) METRO SUBWAY;
- (III) LOCAL BUS SERVICE;
- (IV) COMMUTER BUS SERVICE IN THE BALTIMORE REGION; AND
- (V) ANY OTHER SYSTEMS AND SERVICES SPECIFIED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

~~(C)~~ (B) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT COLLECT FEES OR REIMBURSEMENT FROM AN ~~ELIGIBLE STATE~~ EMPLOYEE FOR SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

~~(D)~~ (C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2020, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Department of Budget and Management shall report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the cost and feasibility of expanding the State employee transit ridership program to:

~~(1)~~ include ridership on the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) Train Service and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); ~~and~~

~~(2)~~ ~~employees of the Legislative and Judicial Branches of State government.~~

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2019.