

HOUSE BILL 520

R1

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By: **Delegate Grammer**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Francis Scott Key Bridge – Toll Discount Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority to offer a certain toll
4 discount plan that allows for unlimited crossings of the Francis Scott Key Bridge for
5 a certain annual fee; and generally relating to tolls for crossing the Francis Scott Key
6 Bridge.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Transportation
9 Section 4–312(a)(2) and (b)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Transportation
14 Section 4–312(c)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 4–312.

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 **(4) THE AUTHORITY SHALL OFFER A TOLL DISCOUNT PLAN THAT**
29 **ALLOWS FOR UNLIMITED CROSSINGS OF THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE FOR AN**
30 **ANNUAL FEE OF \$100.**

31 **[(4)] (5)** Prior to fixing or revising tolls on any part of any transportation
32 facilities project, the Authority shall provide, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
33 Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance
34 Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee
35 information on the proposed toll charges, including:

- 1 (i) The annual revenues generated by the toll charges;
- 2 (ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and
- 3 (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

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