

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 331
 Finance

(Senators Lewis Young and Charles)

Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) must provide staff for the task force. The task force must study paratransit in the State, including (1) current, needed, and expected funding for paratransit; (2) reasons for current funding and spending gaps; and (3) the role public-private partnerships could play in meeting funding and service gaps. By June 30, 2025, the task force must report its findings and recommendation to the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by an estimated \$15,400 in FY 2024 and \$184,600 in FY 2025, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	15,400	184,600	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$15,400)	(\$184,600)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Current Law: The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is a modal unit within MDOT, and it operates a comprehensive transit system throughout the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, including more than 50 local bus lines in Baltimore and other services, such as the light rail, Baltimore Metro subway, commuter buses, MARC trains, and mobility/paratransit vehicles. Apart from the District of Columbia transit system, MDOT and MTA are generally the agencies responsible for the construction and operation of transit lines in the State.

State Expenditures: In the execution of its duties, MDOT and MTA often engage expert consultants to handle research, evaluations, studies, and staffing duties, and MDOT anticipates engaging a consultant to staff the task force and complete the required report. Therefore, TTF expenditures increase by an estimated \$15,400 in fiscal 2024 (due to the bill's June 1, 2024 effective date) and by \$184,600 in fiscal 2025 to hire a consultant to support the task force. Costs may vary depending on the amount of work undertaken by the task force.

Expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2024
km/lgc

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