

SENATE BILL 850

R2

7lr3456
CF HB 907

By: **Senator Mathias**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay Water Transportation Network**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transit
4 Administration to study and examine the feasibility and practicality of using the
5 Chesapeake Bay and its navigable waters as a water transportation network to link
6 waterfront communities along the Chesapeake Bay; requiring the Department and
7 the Administration to prepare a certain inventory of facilities on the Chesapeake
8 Bay; requiring the Department and the Administration to estimate the cost of
9 implementing a Chesapeake Bay Water Transportation Network; making a stylistic
10 change; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
11 Chesapeake Bay Water Transportation Network.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Transportation
14 Section 8–102
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 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 8–102.

21 (a) It is the policy of this title to promote an efficient and economical
22 transportation system.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) The Department [of Transportation] and the State Highway Administration may not proceed to the final project planning phase unless it has been determined that the objective of the proposed project cannot be reasonably achieved through:

(1) Improvements in highway maintenance and safety;

(2) Projects that modify existing highways but provide for minimal relocation or new highway construction; and

(3) Improvements in, or adoption of, transit alternatives, including mass transit alternatives.

(C) AS PART OF THE STRATEGY TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE AN EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

(1) STUDY AND EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY AND PRACTICALITY OF USING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS NAVIGABLE WATERS AS A WATER TRANSPORTATION NETWORK TO LINK WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES ALONG THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BY USING HIGH-SPEED WATER TAXIS AND OTHER VESSELS TO TRANSPORT RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO EMPLOYMENT CENTERS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND ACTIVITIES ALONG THE CHESAPEAKE BAY;

(2) PREPARE AN INVENTORY OF FACILITIES ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY THAT MIGHT BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSPORT OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS BETWEEN WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES ALONG THE CHESAPEAKE BAY;

(3) ESTIMATE THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING A CHESAPEAKE BAY WATER TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FOR THE TRANSPORT OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS BY WATER TAXIS AND OTHER VESSELS BETWEEN WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES ALONG THE CHESAPEAKE BAY; AND

(4) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2019, REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2019, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.