HOUSE BILL 1055

R2, F1   2lr2701

By: **Delegate Smith**
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022
Assigned to: Appropriations and Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ACT concerning

2   **Transportation – Student Transportation – Transit Buses and Carpooling**

3   FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to provide middle
4   school and high school students in Baltimore City with a tangible and digital student
5   transit pass and student transit identification card; authorizing a student who loses
6   a student transit pass or student transit identification card and appears to be under
7   a certain age to ride a transit bus without charge; prohibiting the Administration
8   from imposing any restrictions on the use of a student transit pass; establishing a
9   Student Carpool Incentive Program; requiring the State Department of
10   Transportation to provide a certain amount to schools and carpool drivers
11   participating in the Program; requiring the Administration on or before a certain
12   date for certain years, to increase bus driver pay by a certain amount per hour;
13   requiring the Administration, on or before a certain date for certain years, to add a
14   certain number of transit buses to the Baltimore City weekday fleet; requiring a
15   transit bus to stop for certain individuals; and generally relating to student
16   transportation and bus transit.

17   BY adding to
18   Article – Education
19   Section 7–810 and 7–811
20   Annotated Code of Maryland
21   (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

22   BY adding to
23   Article – Transportation
24   Section 7–710 and 7–714
25   Annotated Code of Maryland
26   (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

1   Article – Education

2   7–810.

3   (A)   THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN BALTIMORE CITY.

4   (B)   (1)   THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE
5   MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH A TANGIBLE AND DIGITAL:

6   (I)   STUDENT TRANSIT PASS; AND

7   (II)   STUDENT TRANSIT IDENTIFICATION CARD.

8   (2)   A STUDENT WHO LOSES A STUDENT TRANSIT PASS OR STUDENT
9   TRANSIT IDENTIFICATION CARD AND APPEARS TO BE UNDER THE AGE OF 22 YEARS
10   MAY RIDE A TRANSIT BUS WITHOUT CHARGE.

11   (C)   THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY RESTRICTIONS,
12   INCLUDING TEMPORAL RESTRICTIONS, ON THE USE OF A STUDENT TRANSIT PASS.

13   7–811.

14   (A)   THERE IS A STUDENT CARPOOL INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

15   (B)   THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR:

16   (1)   SCHOOLS TO ENCOURAGE CARPOOLING; AND

17   (2)   PARENTS OR GUARDIANS TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS USING
18   CARPOOLS.

19   (C)   THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AND PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE A
20   REGISTRATION PORTAL FOR THE PROGRAM.

21   (D)   (1)   TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, A PARENT OR GUARDIAN
22   SHALL REGISTER THE CARPOOL ON THE PROGRAM PORTAL, INCLUDING
23   INFORMATION ON THE SCHOOL THAT A PARTICIPATING STUDENT ATTENDS.

24   (2)   A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MAY DESIGNATE ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL
25   AS A CARPOOL DRIVER.

26   (E)   FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM, EACH YEAR THE STATE
27   DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL PROVIDE:

1   **(1) $1,000 TO A PARTICIPATING SCHOOL FOR EACH CARPOOL**
2 **TRANSPORTING FOUR OR MORE STUDENTS FROM THREE OR MORE HOUSEHOLDS;**
3 **AND**

4   **(2) $300 TO THE REGISTERED CARPOOL DRIVER FOR EACH**
5 **REGISTERED STUDENT.**

6   **Article – Transportation**

7 **7–710.**

8   **(A)   ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER THROUGH**
9 **2027, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCREASE BUS DRIVER PAY BY $1 PER HOUR.**

10   **(B)   ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER THROUGH**
11 **2026, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADD 100 TRANSIT BUSES TO THE BALTIMORE**
12 **CITY WEEKDAY FLEET.**

13 **7–714.**

14   **A TRANSIT BUS SHALL STOP FOR:**

15   **(1)   PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS;**

16   **(2)   MOTHERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN; AND**

17   **(3)   INDIVIDUALS WHO APPEAR TO BE UNDER THE AGE OF 22 YEARS.**

18   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2022.