

HOUSE BILL 1309

R1

4lr3273

By: **Delegate Lopez**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – State Highways – Project Approval**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to provide comments on
4 an application for a development project within a certain time period after the project
5 application is received; and generally relating to development projects.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Transportation
8 Section 8–601
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 8–635
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 8–601.

20 (a) **IN THIS SECTION, “DEVELOPMENT PROJECT” MEANS A PUBLIC OR**
21 **PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT THAT REQUIRES APPROVAL FROM THE**
22 **ADMINISTRATION FOR ACCESS TO A STATE HIGHWAY FOR INGRESS OR EGRESS.**

23 (B) The Administration shall construct, reconstruct, and repair State highways

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 as necessary and shall maintain them in good condition.

2 **[(b)] (C) (1)** The Department may not spend any further funds for the
3 construction of I-95 through Prince George's County that will involve a new or
4 reconstructed segment connecting it to any other highway in Prince George's County. The
5 Department may not spend any further funds for the construction of a new highway,
6 arterial, freeway, or expressway in the lands between Viers Mill Road and Northwest
7 Branch described in the 1980 highway needs inventory as the right-of-way reserved for
8 the Rockville Facility in Montgomery County, including the area designated as the
9 Matthew Henson State Park under § 5-1004 of the Natural Resources Article.

10 **[(c)] (2)** This prohibition does not preclude construction in the right-of-way
11 designated as the Rockville Facility of:

12 **[(1)] (I)** Roadway crossings to facilitate traffic flow and highway safety;
13 or

14 **[(2)] (II)** A hiker/biker trail in the lands between Viers Mill Road and
15 Northwest Branch.

16 **(D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE COMMENTS ON AN**
17 **APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE**
18 **ADMINISTRATION RECEIVES THE COMPLETE PROJECT APPLICATION.**

19 8-635.

20 At the request of any proper county agency, the Administration shall provide to the
21 county engineering advice and information on the county's road program, including its
22 farm-to-market road program. The Administration may not charge the cost of this advice
23 or information either to the county, to the county's share of highway user revenues, or to
24 other funds allocated to the county.

25 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2024.