

SENATE BILL 651

R2, R1

0lr1670

By: **Senators Pipkin and Astle**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2010

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority – Toll Increase – Public Meeting**
3 **Requirement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that, prior to instituting a toll increase for a
5 transportation facilities project under its jurisdiction, the Maryland
6 Transportation Authority hold a public meeting at a place located within a
7 certain radius of the transportation facilities project; and generally relating to a
8 requirement for a public meeting related to toll increases for certain facilities.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 4–312
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 4–312.

18 (a) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 20 of Section 3 and § 16 of
19 Section 4 of Chapter 608 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1976, tolls may be
20 continued to be charged on the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway and any project
21 constructed under the provisions of § 3 (bridge, tunnel, and motorway revenue bonds)
22 of Chapter 608 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1976.

23 (2) **[As] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AS** to
24 all or any part of any transportation facilities project, the Authority may:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

6 **(3) BEFORE THE AUTHORITY INCREASES A TOLL ON ALL OR ANY**
7 **PART OF A TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT, THE AUTHORITY SHALL**
8 **HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING AT A PLACE LOCATED WITHIN A 30-MILE RADIUS OF**
9 **THE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (4) Prior to fixing or revising tolls on any part of any transportation
2 facilities project, the Authority shall provide, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
3 Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance
4 Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Ways and Means
5 Committee information on the proposed toll charges, including:

6 (i) The annual revenues generated by the toll charges;

7 (ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and

8 (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2010.