

HOUSE BILL 965

R2

5lr2331

By: **Delegates Guyton, Allen, Ebersole, McCaskill, Pasteur, Phillips, Ruth, Stein, and White Holland**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2025

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Locally Operated Transit System Grant Program – Equitable**
3 **Distribution of Funds**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, beginning in a certain fiscal year, the Department of
5 Transportation to establish a method to determine funding under the Locally
6 Operated Transit System Grant Program that will result in a fair and equitable
7 distribution of program funds for each county; requiring the Department to develop
8 criteria for the distribution of program funds; and generally relating to the
9 distribution of program funds under the Locally Operated Transit System Grant
10 Program.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 4–322(a) and (b)(1)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Transportation
18 Section 4–322(d)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Transportation**

24 4–322.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(a) (1) There is a Locally Operated Transit System Grant Program.

(2) The Department shall administer the program.

(b) (1) The purpose of the program is to provide funds to locally operated transit systems in the State.

(D) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A METHOD TO DETERMINE FUNDING FOR EACH LOCALLY OPERATED TRANSIT SYSTEM THAT WILL RESULT IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM FUNDS FOR EACH COUNTY.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM FUNDS TO ENSURE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THAT THE DISTRIBUTION:

(I) 1. IS PROPORTIONATE TO EACH COUNTY'S POPULATION AS DETERMINED BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; OR

2. IS EQUITABLE AMONG COUNTIES BASED ON A METRIC THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS APPROPRIATE; AND

(II) ALLOWS FOR GROWTH OF LOCALLY OPERATED TRANSIT SYSTEMS IN EACH COUNTY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.