

Chapter 785

(Senate Bill 1149)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City – Maryland Transit Administration – ~~Free Ridership for State Employees~~ Transit Services for Public School Students

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to ~~extend to employees of the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch of State government the application of any program, policy, or practice through which free ridership on transit vehicles is offered to employees of the Executive Branch of State government~~ provide certain services to certain students of the Baltimore City public school system; providing that services provided under this Act are limited to certain activities and a certain time period; prohibiting the Maryland Transit Administration from seeking certain fees or reimbursement; authorizing the Maryland Transit Administration to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Administration, in conjunction with Baltimore City Public Schools, to adopt regulations that establish certain eligibility criteria for certain students for use of services provided under this Act; requiring the City of Baltimore and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to submit a certain report beginning on or before a certain date, and on or before a certain date each year thereafter; providing for a delayed effective date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Maryland Transit Administration and free ridership for ~~State employees~~ Baltimore City public school students.

BY adding toArticle – TransportationSection 7–709Annotated Code of Maryland(2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Maryland Transit Administration shall extend to employees of the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch of State government the application of any program, policy, or practice through which free ridership on transit vehicles is offered to employees of the Executive Branch of State government.~~

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

Article – Transportation**7–709.**

(A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE RIDERSHIP ON TRANSIT VEHICLES TO ANY ELIGIBLE STUDENT OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE CITY.

(B) THE SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE PROVIDED:

(1) BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 5 A.M. AND 8 P.M.; AND

(2) FOR SCHOOL-RELATED OR EDUCATIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON AND OFF CAMPUS ONLY.

(C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT COLLECT FEES OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(D) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(2) THE ADMINISTRATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING A STUDENT SMART CARD FOR THE USE OF SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(E) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, ~~2017~~ 2018, AND ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE CITY OF BALTIMORE AND THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON:

(1) THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM;

(2) THE IMPACT OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION;
AND

(3) WHETHER THERE IS A NEED TO MAINTAIN:

(i) THE SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

(ii) THE PROHIBITION ON THE COLLECTION OF FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATION FOR SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~June~~ July 1, ~~2017~~ 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June

30, ~~2020~~ 2021, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 27, 2017.