

SENATE BILL 478

R2
SB 40/07 – B&T

9lr1612

By: **Senator Pipkin**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2009
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority – Chesapeake Bay Bridge – Tolls**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority to temporarily
4 stop collecting tolls for the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge
5 (Chesapeake Bay Bridge) under certain congested traffic conditions; requiring
6 the Authority to resume collecting tolls when certain congested traffic
7 conditions no longer exist; requiring the Authority to take certain action to
8 obtain a necessary modification of a certain trust agreement; and generally
9 relating to a requirement that the Authority stop collecting tolls for the William
10 Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge under certain traffic conditions.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 4–312(c)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2008 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 4–312.

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

11 (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

12 **(5) (I) THE AUTHORITY SHALL TEMPORARILY STOP**
13 **COLLECTING TOLLS FOR THE WILLIAM PRESTON LANE, JR. MEMORIAL**
14 **BRIDGE (CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE) IF THE AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT**
15 **VEHICULAR TRAFFIC APPROACHING THE BRIDGE IS SO CONGESTED THAT**
16 **EASTBOUND VEHICLES ARE WAITING 30 MINUTES OR LONGER TO CROSS THE**
17 **BRIDGE.**

18 **(II) IF THE AUTHORITY STOPS COLLECTING TOLLS UNDER**
19 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE AUTHORITY SHALL RESUME**
20 **COLLECTING TOLLS WHEN THE AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT THE TRAFFIC**
21 **CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH ARE NO**
22 **LONGER PRESENT.**

23 **(III) IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF**
24 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE AUTHORITY SHALL TAKE**
25 **WHATEVER ACTION MAY BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A MODIFICATION OF ANY**
26 **TRUST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY AND A CORPORATE TRUSTEE**
27 **THAT SECURES REVENUE BONDS FOR THE BRIDGE.**

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2009.