

R041-0708

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF**
20 **MARYLAND**

30 **WHEREAS:** Maryland's highway system is becoming more and more over
40 burdened with more traffic than it was ever designed to handle; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** Building new highways and expanding existing ones is neither cost effective,
60 practical, or effective; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** Projects like the Intercounty Connector have created nothing but controversy
80 and expenses for Maryland and its tax paying citizens, while not actually
90 achieving any of its goals; and,

100 **WHEREAS:** Expanding the state highway system costs millions of dollars and requires
110 depriving Marylanders of their rightful property; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** Mass transit is a proven and cost effective way of alleviating the demands
130 placed on our current highway and road systems; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** Rail transit is the backbone of any mass transit system; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** MARC, Maryland's rail commuter service, has become popular to the point of
160 its capacity, experiencing annual increases over its already record high level of
170 rider ship; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** MARC is nearing the point of its current capacity, at which it will not be able to
190 provide enough service to meet the demand placed upon it without expanding;
200 and,

210 **WHEREAS:** The recent round of federal Base Realignment And Closing decisions have
220 placed thousands of new jobs at Fort Meade, Fort Detrick, and at the Aberdeen
230 Proving Grounds, all of which are currently serviced by MARC stations; and,

240 **WHEREAS:** These new jobs will place an incredible new burden on the existing MARC
250 system, magnified by Maryland's ever increasing population and employment
260 opportunities; and,

270 **WHEREAS:** An expansion of the current mass transit system and especially an expansion of
280 MARC will create more incentive for businesses to locate in Maryland, as they
290 would be able to draw on a bigger employee base; and,

300 **WHEREAS:** A more expansive mass transit system will have a positive effect on property
310 values in Maryland; and,

320 **WHEREAS:** BRAC has also created thousands of new jobs at Patuxent River Naval Air
330 Station, as well as thousands of new jobs in Southern Maryland; and,

340 **WHEREAS:** There is currently no mass transit service through most of Prince George's
350 County, Maryland's most populous county; or Charles County, an ever growing
360 county; or Saint Mary's County, where Patuxent River Naval Air Station is
370 located; and,

380 **WHEREAS:** An expansion of MARC and mass transit in this direction would allow for easier
390 travel for people living in Southern Maryland, as well as an incentive for further

400 business development and federal investment in the area; and,

500 **WHEREAS:** Improving MARC's capacity and expanding its service is in the best economic
510 interest of the State of Maryland, as well as in residents hereof.

520 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
530 Maryland General Assembly to create a dedicated source of funding for MARC.

540 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland General Assembly should stop projects like
550 the Intercounty Connector and reallocate funding to improving and expanding
560 MARC and mass transit service throughout the State.

570 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland General Assembly should work with
580 MARC to help facilitate and expedite the current MARC improvement plan, and
590 should plan to finish that improvement plan by 2023.

600 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That MARC should examine the possibility of extending
610 service to Southern Maryland, from Bowie south to Lexington Park and
620 Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

630 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Transit Administration should expand
640 service of other types of mass transit throughout the State of Maryland.

650 **MANDATES:** John D. Porcari, Maryland Transportation Secretary
660 Paul J. Wiedefeld, Maryland Transportation Administration Administrator
670 Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland
680 Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland
690 Thomas V. Mike Miller, President of the Senate
700 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates
710 Edward J. Kasemeyer, Senate Majority Leader
720 David R. Brinkley, Senate Minority Leader
730 Kumar P. Barve, House Majority Leader
740 Anthony J. O'Donnell, House Minority Leader

SPONSOR:

Scott T. Besore
Tory Caucus Leader
Co-Delegation Chair Person
University of Maryland, Baltimore County