# Public Law 94-306
## 94th Congress

## An Act

June 4, 1976
[H.R. 8719]

To provide for an amendment to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact to provide for the protection of the patrons, personnel, and property of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

D.C. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact, amendments. D.C. Code 1-1431c.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Congress hereby consents to, and adopts and enacts for the District of Columbia, amendments to articles I and XVI of title III of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact (D.C. Code, sec. 1-1431 note) as follows, which amendments have been adopted substantially by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland:

(1) Section 1(g) of article I is amended by striking "and" at the end thereof.

"Transit Zone", or "Zone."

(2) Section 1(h) of article I is amended to read as follows:

"(h) 'Transit Zone' or 'Zone' means the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Zone created by and described in section 3, as well as any additional area that may be added pursuant to section 83(a); and".

"WMATC."

(3) Section 1 of article I is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(i) 'WMATC' means Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission.".

Metro Transit Police. Establishment.

(4) Section 76 of article XVI is amended to read as follows:

"76. (a) The Authority is authorized to establish and maintain a regular police force, to be known as the Metro Transit Police, to provide protection for its patrons, personnel, and transit facilities. The Metro Transit Police shall have the powers and duties and shall be subject to the limitations set forth in this section. It shall be composed of both uniformed and plainclothes personnel and shall be charged with the duty of enforcing the laws of the signatories, the laws, ordinances, and regulations of the political subdivisions thereof in the Transit Zone, and the rules and regulations of the Authority. The jurisdiction of the Metro Transit Police shall be limited to all the transit facilities owned, controlled, or operated by the Authority, but this shall not limit the power of the Metro Transit Police to make arrests in the Transit Zone for violations committed upon, to, or against such transit facilities committed from within or outside such transit facilities while in hot or close pursuit, or to execute traffic citations and criminal process in accordance with subsection (c). The members of the Metro Transit Police shall have concurrent jurisdiction in the performance of their duties with the duly constituted law enforcement agencies of the signatories and of the political subdivisions thereof in which any transit facility of the Authority is located or in which the Authority operates any transit service. Nothing contained in this section shall either relieve any signatory or political subdivision or agency thereof from its duty to provide police, fire, and other public safety service and protection, or limit, restrict, or interfere with the jurisdiction of or the performance of duties by the existing police, fire, and other public safety agencies.

Jurisdiction.

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"(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a member of the Metro Transit Police shall have the same powers, including the power of arrest, and shall be subject to the same limitations, including regulatory limitations, in the performance of his duties as a member of the duly constituted police force of the political subdivision in which the Metro Transit Police member is engaged in the performance of his duties. However, a member of the Metro Transit Police is authorized to carry and use only such weapons, including handguns, as are issued by the Authority, and only in the performance of his duties or while on the transit facilities owned, controlled, or operated by the Authority in direct transit to and from a duty assignment. A member of the Metro Transit Police is authorized to carry such weapons only while in direct transit to and from a duty assignment and is subject to such additional limitations in the use of weapons as are imposed on the duly constituted police force for the political subdivision in which he is engaged in the performance of his duties.

Traffic citation or criminal process.

"(c) Members of the Metro Transit Police shall have power to execute on the transit facilities owned, controlled, or operated by the Authority any traffic citation or any criminal process issued by any court of any signatory or of any political subdivision of a signatory, for any felony, misdemeanor, or other offense against the laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations specified in subsection (a). However, with respect to offenses committed upon, to, or against the transit facilities owned, controlled, or operated by the Authority, the Metro Transit Police shall have power, except in the State of Maryland, to execute criminal process within the Transit Zone.

Summons.

"(d) Upon the apprehension or arrest of any person by a member of the Metro Transit Police pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b), the officer, as required by the law of the place of apprehension or arrest, shall either issue a summons or a citation against the person, book the person, or deliver the person to the duly constituted police or judicial officer of the signatory or political subdivision where the apprehension or arrest is made, for disposition as required by law.

Rules and regulations.

"(e) The Authority shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations for the safe, convenient, and orderly use of the transit facilities owned, controlled, or operated by the Authority, including the payment and the manner of the payment of fares or charges therefor, the protection of the transit facilities, the control of traffic and parking upon the transit facilities, and the safety and protection of the riding public. In the event that any such rules and regulations contravene the laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations of a signatory or any political subdivision thereof which are existing or subsequently enacted, these laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations of the signatory or the political subdivision shall apply and the conflicting rule or regulation, or portion thereof, of the Authority shall be void within the jurisdiction of that signatory or political subdivision. In all other respects the rules and regulations of the Authority shall be uniform throughout the Transit Zone. The rules and regulations established under this subsection shall be adopted and published in accordance with all standards of due process, including, but not limited to, the publishing or otherwise circulating of a notice of the intended action of the Authority and the affording to interested persons the opportunity to submit data or views orally or in writing, and the holding of a public hearing. Any person violating any rule or regulation of the Authority shall, upon conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction, pay a fine of not more than $250 and costs.

Notice and hearing.

Violation, penalty.

"(f) With respect to members of the Metro Transit Police, the Authority shall—

"(1) establish classifications based on the nature and scope of duties, and fix and provide for their qualifications, appointment, removal, tenure, term, compensation, pension, and retirement benefits;

"(2) provide for their training and for this purpose, the Authority may enter into contracts or agreements with any public or private organization engaged in police training, and this training and the qualifications of the uniformed and plainclothes personnel shall at least equal the requirements of each signatory and of the political subdivisions therein in the Transit Zone for their personnel performing comparable duties; and

"(3) prescribe distinctive uniforms to be worn.

Agreements.

"(g) The Authority shall have the power to enter into agreements with the signatories, the political subdivisions thereof in the Transit Zone, and public safety agencies located therein, including those of the Federal Government, for the delineation of the functions and responsibilities of the Metro Transit Police and the duly constituted police, fire, and other public safety agencies, and for mutual assistance.

Oaths.

"(h) Before entering upon the duties of office, each member of the Metro Transit Police shall take or subscribe to an oath or affirmation, before a person authorized to administer oaths, faithfully to perform the duties of that office.".

D.C. Code 1-1431c.

SEC. 2. The Mayor of the District of Columbia is authorized and directed to enter into and execute on behalf of the District of Columbia amendments, substantially as set forth in the first section of this Act, to title III of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact with the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia, which amendments shall become effective immediately upon execution of same.

SEC. 3. (a) Subchapter II of chapter 9 of title 11 of the District of Columbia Code is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

D.C. Code 11-924.

**"§ 11-924. Jurisdiction with respect to violations of the Rules and Regulations of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**

"The Superior Court has jurisdiction with respect to any violation, committed in the District of Columbia, of the rules and regulations adopted by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority under section 76(e) of title III of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.".

*Ante*, p. 672.

(b) The chapter analysis for such chapter 9 is amended by inserting immediately after the item relating to section 11-923 the following new item:

"11-924. Jurisdiction with Respect to Violations of the Rules and Regulations of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.".

SEC. 4. The Council of the District of Columbia shall have authority to enact any act adopting on behalf of the District of Columbia amendments to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact, but in no case shall any such amendment become effective until after it has been approved by Congress. D.C. Code 1–1431–1.

SEC. 5. The right of Congress to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved. D.C. Code 1–1431c note.

Approved June 4, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94–379 (Comm. on the District of Columbia).
SENATE REPORT No. 94–832 (Comm. on the District of Columbia).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:
Vol. 121 (1975): July 28, considered and passed House.
Vol. 122 (1976): May 18, considered and passed Senate, amended.
May 24, House concurred in Senate amendment.