

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 92

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to amend the Washington Area Transit Regulation Compact.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Congress in title III of the Fixing America's
4 Surface Transportation Act (section 3026, Public
5 Law 114–94) provided sole authority to the Sec-
6 retary of Transportation to appoint Federal Direc-
7 tors to the Board of Directors of the Washington
8 Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and required
9 the signatory parties to the Compact to amend the
10 Compact as necessary.

11 (2) Legislation enacted by the State of Mary-
12 land, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Dis-
13 trict of Columbia contains the amendments to the
14 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation
15 Compact pursuant to section 3026(b) of the Fixing
16 America's Surface Transportation Act (Public Law
17 114–94).

18 **SEC. 2. CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO COMPACT AMEND-**
19 **MENTS.**

20 (a) CONSENT.—Consent of Congress is given to the
21 amendments of the State of Maryland, the amendments
22 of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the amendments
23 of the District of Columbia to section 5, of title III of
24 the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation
25 Compact.

1 (b) AMENDMENTS.—The amendments referred to in
2 subsection (a) amending section 5 of such Compact are
3 substantially as follows:

4 “(a) The Authority shall be governed by a Board of
5 eight Directors consisting of two Directors for each Signa-
6 tory and two for the Federal Government (one of whom
7 shall be a regular passenger and customer of the bus or
8 rail service of the Authority). For Virginia, the Directors
9 shall be appointed by the Northern Virginia Transpor-
10 tation Commission; for the District of Columbia by the
11 Council of the District of Columbia; for Maryland, by the
12 Washington Suburban Transit Commission; and for the
13 Federal Government, by the Secretary of the United
14 States Department of Transportation. For Virginia and
15 Maryland, the Directors shall be appointed from among
16 the members of the appointing body, except as otherwise
17 provided herein, and shall serve for a term coincident with
18 their term on the appointing body. A Director for a Signa-
19 tory may be removed or suspended from office only as pro-
20 vided by the law of the Signatory from which he was ap-
21 pointed. The non-Federal appointing authorities shall also
22 appoint an alternate for each Director. In addition, the
23 Secretary of the United States Department of Transpor-
24 tation shall also appoint two nonvoting members who shall
25 serve as the alternates for the Federal Directors. An alter-

1 nate Director may act only in the absence of the Director
 2 for whom he has been appointed an alternate, except that,
 3 in the case of the District of Columbia where only one
 4 Director and his alternate are present, such alternate may
 5 act on behalf of the absent Director. Each alternate, in-
 6 cluding the Federal nonvoting Directors, shall serve at the
 7 pleasure of the appointing authority. In the event of a va-
 8 cancy in the Office of Director or alternate, it shall be
 9 filled in the same manner as an original appointment.

10 “(b) Before entering upon the duties of his office
 11 each Director and alternate director shall take and sub-
 12 scribe to the following oath (or affirmation) of office or
 13 any such other oath or affirmation, if any, as the Constitu-
 14 tion or laws of the Government he represents shall provide:
 15 ‘I, _____, here-
 16 by solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and de-
 17 fend the Constitution of the United States and the Con-
 18 stitution and Laws of the state or political jurisdiction
 19 from which I was appointed as a Director (alternate direc-
 20 tor) of the Board of Washington Metropolitan Area Tran-
 21 sit Authority and will faithfully discharge the duties of the
 22 office upon which I am about to enter.’”.

23 **SEC. 3. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.**

24 The right to alter, amend, or repeal this joint resolu-
 25 tion is expressly reserved. The consent granted by this

1 joint resolution shall not be construed as impairing or in
2 any manner affecting any right or jurisdiction of the
3 United States in and over the region that forms the sub-
4 ject of the Compact.

5 **SEC. 4. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.**

6 It is intended that the provisions of this Compact
7 shall be reasonably and liberally construed to effectuate
8 the purposes thereof. If any part or application of this
9 Compact, or legislation enabling the Compact, is held in-
10 valid, the remainder of the Compact or its application to
11 other situations or persons shall not be affected.

12 **SEC. 5. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.**

13 The validity of this Compact shall not be affected by
14 any insubstantial differences in its form or language as
15 adopted by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of
16 Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

17 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

18 This joint resolution shall take effect on the date of
19 enactment of this joint resolution.

Passed the House of Representatives July 17, 2017.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.