

WHEREAS, It is the purpose of the General Assembly not to grant local governments powers in any substantive areas not otherwise granted them under existing law, and not to restrict local governments from executing powers granted them by existing law, but to confirm existing powers of local governments to supplant displace or limit competition with respect to the subjects dealt with herein; now, therefore,

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

Article 23A - Corporations - Municipal

2A.

(A) (1) IT HAS BEEN AND SHALL CONTINUE TO BE THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO AUTHORIZE EACH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TO SUPPLANT DISPLACE OR LIMIT COMPETITION IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE, ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS FROM INCONSISTENT AND EXCESSIVE PRICES; TO PROVIDE NECESSARY AND DESIRED SERVICES IN ALL AREAS OF THE MUNICIPALITY; TO ENABLE THE MUNICIPALITY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN ORDER TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND REDUCE AIR POLLUTION, CONGESTION, TRAFFIC HAZARDS AND ACCIDENTS; TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BY THE CONTRIBUTION BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAPITAL AND OPERATING FUNDS TO ENABLE TRANSPORTATION TO BE PROVIDED AT THE LOWEST COST TO ALL CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY THE INDIGENT; AND TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE BY CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

(2) EACH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION HAS THE AUTHORITY TO GRANT ONE OR MORE FRANCHISES FOR A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ON AN EXCLUSIVE OR NONEXCLUSIVE BASIS, TO IMPOSE FRANCHISE FEES, TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN RATES AND TO ESTABLISH RULES, REGULATIONS AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS TO GOVERN THE OPERATION OF THE FRANCHISES AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF ANY SUCH MEASURE; TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ON AN EXCLUSIVE BASIS, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RULES, REGULATIONS, AND RATES, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY ANTICOMPETITIVE EFFECT.

(B) (1) IT HAS BEEN AND SHALL CONTINUE TO BE THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO AUTHORIZE EACH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TO SUPPLANT DISPLACE OR LIMIT COMPETITION IN THE AREA OF WATER AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS ~~AND-WASTE-COLLECTION-SERVICES-AND-WASTE-DISPOSAL-SERVICES~~ IN ORDER TO ASSURE DELIVERY OF ADEQUATE, ECONOMICAL, AND EFFICIENT SERVICES TO ITS CITIZENS, TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF FACILITIES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ITS CITIZENS, TO CONTROL DISEASE, TO PREVENT BLIGHT AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, ~~TO-PROMOTE-THE-GENERATION-OF-ENERGY-AND-THE-RECOVERY-OF-USABLE-RESOURCES-FROM-WASTE,~~ TO UTILIZE EFFICIENTLY THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY; TO PROTECT LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITIZENS OF THE MUNICIPALITY, ~~TO-LIMIT-WASTE,~~ ~~NOXIOUS-ODORS-AND-UNDESIRABLE-GARBAGE-AND-DECAY;~~ AND TO PROMOTE THE