

qualifications. The bill would also alter terms, add term limitations and require that the eight members be reflective of the racial, gender, and geographic diversity of the State.

Currently, the law provides for six members of the Maryland Transportation Authority to be appointed at the discretion of the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. No substantive basis has been provided to support a broad restructuring of the Maryland Transportation Authority as proposed by Senate Bill 52. The layering of new, multiple appointment qualifications and requirements not only intrudes upon, but also complicates, the Executive's ability to ensure there is an optimal mix of knowledge, skills and citizen participation on the Authority.

The proposed new expertise requirements in structural engineering, transportation and land use planning raises the risk of conflict of interest among individuals in these professions and industries, and narrows the pool of qualified individuals for appointment consideration. This is further compounded by the language in the bill that, in addition to experiential requirements, mandates that an eight-person group mirror the composition of the State.

The provisions of this bill create an appointment framework that is practically impossible to satisfy.

For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 52.

Very truly yours,  
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

### Senate Bill No. 52

AN ACT concerning

#### **Maryland Transportation Authority - Membership**

FOR the purpose of increasing the number of appointed members of the Maryland Transportation Authority; prohibiting an appointed member of the Authority from being an employee of the Executive Branch of the State government; requiring that certain appointed members have expertise in certain specialties; providing that the appointed members of the Authority shall reflect certain racial, gender, and geographic diversity; establishing that the terms of the appointed members of the Authority are staggered as provided in this Act; providing for the expiration of the terms of the appointed members of the Authority; limiting the number of terms that an appointed member of the Authority may serve; making a stylistic change; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to the membership of the Maryland Transportation Authority.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article - Transportation  
Section 4-202  
Annotated Code of Maryland