

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board of Directors should study and adopt the following improvements to WMATA's financial planning and business practices:~~

~~(1) after consultation with stakeholders and the funding jurisdictions, complete a strategic plan that:~~

~~(i) prioritizes goals for the transportation system and strategies to achieve these goals; and~~

~~(ii) adopts performance measures and benchmarks, which are reported through the annual budget process to the Board and funding jurisdictions;~~

~~(2) develop a long range budget plan, outlining WMATA's long term capital and operating needs and funding requirements; and~~

~~(3) adopt an annual 5 year service and financial plan that:~~

~~(i) outlines planned transportation services;~~

~~(ii) estimates the operating costs of planned service expansions; and~~

~~(iii) includes detailed expenditure and revenue projections.~~

~~SECTION 4. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2006.~~

April 7, 2006

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 1368 – *Election Law – Voter Bill of Rights*.

House Bill 1368 was passed as an emergency measure by the General Assembly to further expand the powers of the State Administrator of Elections and mandate certain election procedures for the 2006 elections. Last year, over my objections, the General Assembly enacted significant modifications to our State's election procedures in an attempt to promote greater voter access without taking into account safeguards that ensure integrity in our elections system. These modifications were inspired by partisan politics instead of instilling public confidence of our voting system. Now presented again are a litany of election law proposals that create an imbalance in election administration and mandate new procedures without the full consent of our local elections officials.

One of the pillars of democracy in America is our electoral process. In Maryland, we have strived to create a system that instills public confidence in our ability to conduct fair, accurate and secure elections. It has been the goal of this Administration to