

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is dedicated to maintaining a high quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, Many counties in the State are experiencing substantial growth in population, employment, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, ~~Transportation services should be improved to provide the public with efficient transportation connecting locations within the State; and~~

WHEREAS, ~~The Maryland Department of Transportation, together with local governments, is responsible for operating and improving transit systems and coordinating transit services statewide; and~~

WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the acquisition of open spaces and areas for recreational uses; and

WHEREAS, The State should study whether the many existing railroad rights-of-way may be developed for use ~~as light rail transportation lines and as bicycle and hiking~~ multirecreational use trails; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Transportation and ~~the Department of Natural Resources~~ shall ~~conduct a study to identify existing rail rights-of-way within the State, and to provide the information to the Department of Natural Resources.~~ The Department of Natural Resources shall determine what measures would be necessary for the State to acquire rights-of-way which are not needed for transportation purposes, for future transportation and recreation needs.

~~(b) The Department of Transportation and its Mass Transit Administration shall study the possible development of light rail transportation within existing railroad rights-of-way throughout the State.~~

~~(c) (b)~~ The Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources shall study the possible development of a statewide network of ~~bicycle and hiking~~ multirecreational use trails utilizing existing railroad rights-of-way.

~~(d) (c)~~ The Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources shall report to the General Assembly on the results of the studies required by this Act on or before December 1, 1988 1989.