

FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Commissioners of Somerset County to grant ~~one or more franchises~~ a franchise for a ferry company to operate between Somerset County and Reedville, Virginia, on ~~a an exclusive or nonexclusive~~ basis; requiring the County Commissioners of Somerset County to review a certain proposed business and financial plan at a certain time; authorizing the County Commissioners of Somerset County to adopt certain regulations that are consistent with certain regulations adopted by the Public Service Commission; providing that a ferry company granted a franchise under this Act has a certain period of time in which to exercise the franchise, after which the franchise is null and void; providing that a ferry company that has been granted a franchise that has become null and void is not precluded from subsequently applying for another franchise; prohibiting a ferry company granted a franchise under this Act from conducting ~~certain~~ any gambling or gaming activities on any ferry that it operates under the franchise; and generally relating to a public transportation ~~franchises~~ franchise in Somerset County.

BY adding to

Article 25 – County Commissioners

Section 3D(a)(3)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

Article 25 – County Commissioners

3D.

(a) (3) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY ANTICOMPETITIVE EFFECT, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY MAY GRANT ~~ONE OR MORE FRANCHISES~~ A FRANCHISE FOR A FERRY COMPANY TO OPERATE BETWEEN SOMERSET COUNTY AND REEDVILLE, VIRGINIA ON ~~A AN EXCLUSIVE OR NONEXCLUSIVE~~ BASIS.

(II) BEFORE GRANTING A FRANCHISE ~~FOR~~ TO A FERRY COMPANY, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY SHALL REVIEW THE PROPOSED BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PLAN ~~FOR~~ OF THE FERRY COMPANY.

(III) 1. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

2. REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH ANY REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION THAT RELATE TO FERRY COMPANIES.

(IV) 1. A FERRY COMPANY THAT IS GRANTED A FRANCHISE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH HAS UP TO 18 MONTHS TO EXERCISE THE FRANCHISE.