

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 694

To amend the Passenger Rail Investment Improvement Act of 2008 to prohibit certain funding to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority until certain conditions are met, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. TRONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Passenger Rail Investment Improvement Act of 2008 to prohibit certain funding to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority until certain conditions are met, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Metro Accountability
5 and Investment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION FOR CAPITAL AND PREVENTIVE**
2 **MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FOR WASHINGTON**
3 **METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY.**

4 Section 601 of the Passenger Rail Investment and
5 Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–432) is
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b) by striking “The Federal”
8 and inserting “Except as provided in subsection
9 (f)(2), the Federal”;

10 (2) by striking subsections (d) through (f) and
11 inserting the following:

12 “(d) **REQUIRED BOARD APPROVAL.**—No amounts
13 may be provided to the Transit Authority under this sec-
14 tion until the Transit Authority certifies to the Secretary
15 of Transportation that—

16 “(1) a board resolution has passed on or before
17 July 1, 2021, and is in effect for the period of July
18 1, 2022, through June 30, 2031, that—

19 “(A) establishes an independent budget au-
20 thority for the Office of Inspector General of
21 the Transit Authority;

22 “(B) establishes an independent procure-
23 ment authority for the Office of Inspector Gen-
24 eral of the Transit Authority;

1 “(C) establishes an independent hiring au-
2 thority for the Office of Inspector General of
3 the Transit Authority;

4 “(D) ensures the Inspector General of the
5 Transit Authority can obtain legal advice from
6 a counsel reporting directly to the Inspector
7 General;

8 “(E) requires the Inspector General of the
9 Transit Authority to submit recommendations
10 for corrective action to the General Manager
11 and the Board of Directors of the Transit Au-
12 thority;

13 “(F) requires the Inspector General of the
14 Transit Authority to publish any recommenda-
15 tion described in subparagraph (E) on the
16 website of the Office of Inspector General of the
17 Transit Authority, except that the Inspector
18 General may redact personally identifiable in-
19 formation and information that, in the deter-
20 mination of the Inspector General, would pose
21 a security risk to the systems of the Transit
22 Authority;

23 “(G) requires the Board of Directors of
24 the Transit Authority to provide written notice
25 to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-

1 structure of the House of Representatives and
2 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
3 Urban Affairs of the Senate not less than 30
4 days before the Board of Directors removes the
5 Inspector General of the Transit Authority,
6 which shall include the reasons for removal and
7 supporting documentation; and

8 “(H) prohibits the Board of Directors from
9 removing the Inspector General of the Transit
10 Authority unless the Board of Directors has
11 provided a 30-day written notification as de-
12 scribed in subparagraph (G) that documents—

13 “(i) a permanent incapacity;

14 “(ii) a neglect of duty;

15 “(iii) malfeasance;

16 “(iv) a conviction of a felony or con-
17 duct involving moral turpitude;

18 “(v) a knowing violation of a law or
19 regulation;

20 “(vi) gross mismanagement;

21 “(vii) a gross waste of funds;

22 “(viii) an abuse of authority; or

23 “(ix) inefficiency; and

24 “(2) the Code of Ethics for Members of the
25 WMATA Board of Directors passed on September

26, 2019, remains in effect, or the Inspector General of the Transit Authority has been consulted on any modifications to the Code of Ethics by the Board.

“(e) AUTHORIZATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation for grants under this section—

“(A) for fiscal year 2022, \$150,000,000;

“(B) for fiscal year 2023, \$155,000,000;

“(C) for fiscal year 2024, \$160,000,000;

“(D) for fiscal year 2025, \$165,000,000;

“(E) for fiscal year 2026, \$170,000,000;

“(F) for fiscal year 2027, \$175,000,000;

“(G) for fiscal year 2028, \$180,000,000;

“(H) for fiscal year 2029, \$185,000,000;

“(I) for fiscal year 2030, \$190,000,000;

and

“(J) for fiscal year 2031, \$200,000,000.

“(2) SET ASIDE FOR OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY.—From the amounts in paragraph (1), the Transit Authority shall provide at least 7 percent for each fiscal year to the Office of Inspector General of the Transit Authority to carry out independent and objective audits, investigations, and reviews of Transit Authority

1 programs and operations to promote economy, effi-
2 ciency, and effectiveness, and to prevent and detect
3 fraud, waste, and abuse in such programs and oper-
4 ations.”; and

5 (3) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
6 section (f).

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