

Senate Bill 120

By: Senators Stoner of the 6th, Mullis of the 53rd, Jones of the 10th, Rogers of the 21st, Adelman of the 42nd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965,"  
2 approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243), as amended, so as to allow a transportation  
3 services contract to authorize the extension of or addition to the Authority's existing rapid  
4 rail system; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965," approved  
9 March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243), as amended, is amended by revising subsections (i)  
10 and (l) of Section 25 as follows:

11 "(i) Use of Proceeds. The proceeds of the tax levied pursuant to this Act shall be used  
12 solely by each local government to fulfill the obligations incurred in the contracts  
13 entered into with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority as contemplated  
14 in the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965, as amended;  
15 provided, however, that no more than fifty percent (50%) of the annual proceeds of  
16 the tax shall be used to subsidize the operating costs of the system, exclusive of  
17 depreciation, amortization, and other costs and charges as provided in this subsection,  
18 until January 1, 2002. For the period beginning January 1, 2002, and ending June 30,  
19 2002; and for each fiscal year commencing thereafter until December 31, 2008, no  
20 more than fifty-five percent (55%) of the proceeds of the tax shall be used to  
21 subsidize the operating costs of the system, exclusive of depreciation, amortization,  
22 and other costs and charges as provided in this subsection; ~~and for. For the period~~  
23 ~~beginning January 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year~~  
24 ~~commencing thereafter until July 1, 2032, no more than fifty percent (50%) of the~~  
25 ~~proceeds of the tax shall be used to subsidize the operating costs of the system,~~  
26 ~~exclusive of depreciation, amortization, and other costs and charges as provided in~~  
27 ~~this subsection; except that if the~~ there shall be no restriction on the use of the

28 proceeds of the tax. The Board of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority  
29 shall ~~fail to~~ file with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Overview Committee  
30 annually, the original and 14 copies of a report of the findings of a completed  
31 management performance audit of the Authority's current operations, which audit was  
32 performed under contract with and at the expense of the Authority, along with any  
33 auditor's recommendations based thereon and the auditor's signed written verification  
34 that the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority fully cooperated with such  
35 audit and allowed access to all its books, records, and documents to the extent the  
36 auditor deemed necessary, ~~then for the period beginning January 1, 2003, and ending~~  
37 ~~June 30, 2003, and each fiscal year commencing thereafter until July 1, 2032, no more~~  
38 ~~than fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds of the tax shall be used to subsidize the~~  
39 ~~operating costs of the system, exclusive of depreciation, amortization, and other costs~~  
40 ~~and charges as provided in this subsection. For each fiscal year commencing on or~~  
41 ~~after July 1, 2032, no more than sixty percent (60%) of the annual proceeds of the tax~~  
42 ~~shall be used to subsidize the operating costs of the system, exclusive of depreciation,~~  
43 ~~amortization, and other costs and charges as provided in this subsection; and~~  
44 ~~commencing with July 1, 2032, and for every year thereafter, the proceeds of the tax~~  
45 ~~shall not be used to subsidize operations of the transportation system to an extent~~  
46 ~~greater than fifty percent (50%) of the operating costs of the system, exclusive of~~  
47 ~~depreciation, amortization, and other costs and charges as provided in this subsection.~~  
48 In adopting its annual budget, the Board of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit  
49 Authority shall be authorized to rely upon estimates of all revenues, operating costs,  
50 patronage, and other factors which may affect the amount of the fare required to limit  
51 the operating subsidy herein provided for. If the results of any year's operations  
52 reflect that the proceeds of the tax were used to subsidize operations to an extent  
53 greater than herein provided, the Board shall adjust fares in order to make up the  
54 deficit in operations during a period of not to exceed three (3) succeeding years. If  
55 the results of operations in the Authority's fiscal year commencing July 1, 1980, or  
56 in any subsequent fiscal year reflect that the proceeds of the tax were not used to  
57 subsidize operations to the maximum extent herein provided, the Board shall reserve  
58 any amounts that could have been used to subsidize operations in that fiscal year and  
59 later use said reserved amounts and any interest earned on said reserved amounts to  
60 provide an additional subsidy for operations in any future fiscal year or years. The  
61 words 'operating costs of the system' for purposes of this subsection 25(i) are defined  
62 to include all of the costs of that division of the Authority directly involved and that  
63 portion of the nonoperating administrative costs of those divisions of the Authority  
64 indirectly involved, through the provision of support services, in providing mass

65 ~~transportation services for the metropolitan area, but exclusive of the costs of the~~  
 66 ~~division or divisions directly involved and that portion of the nonoperating~~  
 67 ~~administrative costs of those divisions indirectly involved, in the planning, design,~~  
 68 ~~acquisition, construction, and improvement of the rapid transit system, according to~~  
 69 ~~accepted principles of accounting, and also exclusive of the following costs:~~

70 ~~(1) Nonrecurring costs and charges incurred in order to comply with any statute or~~  
 71 ~~regulation concerning either the protection or cleaning up of the environment, or~~  
 72 ~~accessibility by handicapped or disabled persons, or occupational health or safety, or~~  
 73 ~~compliance with any national or state emergencies, or with any judgment, decree, or~~  
 74 ~~order of any court or regulatory agency in implementation of any such statute or~~  
 75 ~~regulation; and~~

76 ~~(2) In the case of leases of equipment or facilities that, according to generally accepted~~  
 77 ~~principles of accounting, would not be classified as capital leases, payments of rent, and~~  
 78 ~~other payments for the property subject to such leases or for the use thereof; provided that~~  
 79 ~~any costs for regular maintenance or repair of such equipment or facilities shall not be~~  
 80 ~~excluded.~~

81 ~~If any proceeds of the tax levied pursuant to this Act are held for the purpose of planning,~~  
 82 ~~designing, acquiring, or constructing additional facilities or equipment for or improvements~~  
 83 ~~to the rapid transit system and are invested, then all interest earned from such investments~~  
 84 ~~shall be used only for such purposes or for paying the principal of or interest on bonds or~~  
 85 ~~certificates issued for such purposes. Commencing July 1, 1988, and until June 30, 2008,~~  
 86 ~~and only if expressly authorized by the board, interest earned on reserve funds set aside for~~  
 87 ~~rebuilding, repairing, or renovating facilities of the rapid transit system; for replacing,~~  
 88 ~~repairing, or renovating equipment or other capital assets thereof; or from the sale or other~~  
 89 ~~disposition of real property; may, without regard to the original source of the funds so~~  
 90 ~~reserved, be used to pay the operating costs of the system as such costs are defined in this~~  
 91 ~~subsection."~~

92 ~~"(l) Any limitation contained in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding, the Board may,~~  
 93 ~~in its sole discretion, and for any fiscal year commencing July 1, 1980, or thereafter, use~~  
 94 ~~any interest earned on any self-insurance reserve established pursuant to Section 22 of this~~  
 95 ~~Act to pay the operating costs of the system as defined by subsection (i) of Section 25 of~~  
 96 ~~this Act."~~

97 **SECTION 2.**

98 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
 99 without such approval.

100

**SECTION 3.**

101 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.