

Public Law 92-349

July 13, 1972
[H. R. 15507]

AN ACT

To amend the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969 to provide for Federal guarantees of obligations issued by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, to authorize an increased contribution by the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

National Capital
Transportation
Act of 1972.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "National Capital Transportation Act of 1972".

TITLE I—FEDERAL GUARANTEES OF WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY OBLIGATIONS

83 Stat. 320.
D. C. Code 1-1441
note.

SEC. 101. The National Capital Transportation Act of 1969 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sections:

"GUARANTEE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY OBLIGATIONS

Conditions.

"SEC. 9. (a) The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to guarantee, and to enter into commitments to guarantee, upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, payment of principal of and interest on bonds and other evidences of indebtedness (including short-term notes) issued with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury by the Transit Authority under the Compact. No such guarantee or commitment to guarantee shall be made unless the Secretary of Transportation determines and certifies that—

"(1) the obligation to be guaranteed represents an acceptable financial risk to the United States and the prospective revenues of the Transit Authority (including payments under section 10) furnish reasonable assurance that timely payments of interest on such obligation will be made;

"(2) the Transit Authority has entered into an agreement with the Secretary of Transportation providing for reasonable and prudent action by the Transit Authority respecting its financial condition if at any time the Secretary, in his discretion, determines that such action would be necessary to protect the interest of the United States;

"(3) unless the obligation is a short-term note (as determined by the Secretary), it will be sold through a process of competitive bidding as prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation; and

"(4) the rate of interest payable with respect to such obligation is reasonable in light of prevailing market yields.

Notwithstanding clause (3) of the preceding sentence, the Secretary of Transportation may guarantee an obligation under this section sold through a process of negotiation if he makes a determination that prevailing market conditions would result in a higher net interest cost or would otherwise increase the cost of issuing the obligation if the obligation was sold through the competitive bidding process. The Secretary's determination shall be in writing and shall contain a detailed explanation of the reasons therefor.

"(b) Any guarantee of obligations made by the Secretary of Transportation under this section shall be conclusive evidence of the eligibility of the obligations for such guarantee, and the validity of any guarantee so made shall be incontestable, except for fraud or material misrepresentation, in the hands of a holder of the guaranteed obligation.

Conclusive
evidence of eligi-
bility.

“(c) The aggregate principal amount of obligations which may be guaranteed under this section shall not exceed \$1,200,000,000; except that (1) no obligation may be guaranteed under this section if, taking into account the principal amount of that obligation, the aggregate amount of principal of outstanding obligations guaranteed under this section exceeds \$900,000,000 unless the local participating governments (A) make, in accordance with agreements entered into with the Transit Authority, capital contributions to the Transit Authority for the Adopted Regional System in a total amount not less than 50 per centum of the amount by which the principal of such obligation causes such aggregate amount of principal to exceed \$900,000,000, or (B) have entered into enforceable commitments with the Transit Authority to make such contributions by the end of the fiscal year in which such obligation is issued, and (2) obligations eligible for guarantees under this section which are issued solely for the purpose of refunding existing obligations previously guaranteed under this section may be guaranteed without regard to the \$1,200,000,000 limitation.

Limitations.

“(d) The interest on any obligation of the Transit Authority issued after the date of the enactment of this section shall be included in gross income for the purposes of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

58A Stat. 5.
26 USC 1.

“REIMBURSEMENT FOR INTEREST AND RELATED COSTS

“SEC. 10. The Secretary of Transportation shall make periodic payments to the Transit Authority upon request therefor by the Transit Authority in such amounts as may be necessary to equal one-fourth of the total of the—

“(1) net interest cost, and

“(2) fees, commissions, and other costs of issuance,

which the Secretary determines the Transit Authority incurred on its obligations issued after the date of the enactment of this section.

“AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

“SEC. 11. (a) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation such amounts as may be necessary to enable him to discharge his responsibilities under guarantees issued by him under section 9 and to make the payments to the Transit Authority in accordance with section 10. Amounts appropriated under this section shall be available without fiscal year limitation.

“(b) If at any time the moneys available to the Secretary of Transportation are insufficient to enable him to discharge his responsibilities under guarantees issued by him under section 9 or to make payments to the Transit Authority in accordance with section 10, he shall issue to the Secretary of the Treasury notes or other obligations in such forms and denominations, bearing such maturities, and subject to such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Redemption of such notes or obligations shall be made by the Secretary of Transportation from appropriations available under subsection (a) of this section. Such notes or other obligations shall bear interest at a rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into consideration the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturities during the month preceding the issuance of the notes or other obligations. The Secretary of the Treasury shall purchase any notes or other obligations issued hereunder and for that purpose he is authorized to use as a public debt transaction the proceeds from the sale of any securities issued under the Second Liberty Bond Act and the purposes for which securities may be issued under that Act are extended to include any purchase of such notes or obligations. The Secretary of

Notes or obligations,
issuance.40 Stat. 288.
31 USC 774.

the Treasury may at any time sell any of the notes or other obligations acquired by him under this subsection. All redemptions, purchases, and sales by the Secretary of the Treasury of such notes or other obligations shall be treated as public debt transactions of the United States.

“OBLIGATIONS AS LAWFUL INVESTMENTS

Ante, p. 464.

“SEC. 12. (a) Obligations issued by the Transit Authority which are guaranteed by the Secretary of Transportation under section 9 shall be lawful investments, and may be accepted as security for fiduciary, trust, and public funds, the investment or deposit of which shall be under authority or control of the United States or of any officer or officers thereof, and shall be deemed to be exempt securities within the meaning of laws administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission to the same extent as securities which are issued by the United States.

“(b) The sixth sentence of the paragraph of section 5136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States designated ‘Seventh’ (12 U.S.C. 24) is amended by inserting ‘, or obligations of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority which are guaranteed by the Secretary of Transportation under section 9 of the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969’ immediately following ‘or general obligations of any State or of any political subdivision thereof’.

“(c) Any building association, building and loan association, or savings and loan association, incorporated or unincorporated, organized and operating under the laws of the District of Columbia, or any Federal savings and loan association, may invest its funds in obligations of the Transit Authority which are guaranteed by the Secretary of Transportation under section 9.”

Study.

SEC. 102. The Secretary of Transportation shall:

(1) conduct a study to determine the additional funds (if any) needed to bring the facilities and services of the Adopted Regional System into conformity with the national policy respecting the needs of the elderly and the handicapped stated in section 16(a) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, and

(2) report to the Congress the results of such study.

84 Stat. 967.
49 USC 1612.
Report to Congress.

TITLE II—INCREASED DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CONTRIBUTION

83 Stat. 321.

SEC. 201. (a) Section 4(a) of the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969 (D.C. Code, sec. 1-1443(a)) is amended (1) by striking out “\$216,500,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$269,700,000”, and (2) by striking out “\$166,500,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$219,700,000”.

83 Stat. 321.

(b) Paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of the first section of the Act of June 6, 1958 (D.C. Code, sec. 9-220(b)(3)) is amended (1) by striking out “\$216,500,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$269,700,000”, and (2) by striking out “\$166,500,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$219,700,000”.

TITLE III—COMPACT AMENDMENTS

Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority
Compact, amend-
ments.
80 Stat. 1324.

SEC. 301. (a) The Congress hereby consents to amendments to articles I, III, VII, IX, XI, XIV, and XVI of title III of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact (D.C. Code, sec. 1-1431 note) substantially as follows:

(1) Section 1 (g) of article I is amended to read as follows:

“(g) ‘Transit services’ means the transportation of persons and their packages and baggage by means of transit facilities between points within the Zone including the transportation of newspapers, express, and mail between such points, and charter service which originates within the Zone but does not include taxicab service or individual-ticket-sales sightseeing operations; and”.

80 Stat. 1325.
D.C. Code
1-1431 note.
“Transit serv-
ices.”

(2) Section 5(a) of article III is amended to read as follows:

“5. (a) The Authority shall be governed by a Board of six Directors consisting of two Directors for each signatory. For Virginia, the Directors shall be appointed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission; for the District of Columbia by the City Council of the District of Columbia from among its members, the Commissioner and the Assistant to the Commissioner of the District of Columbia; and for Maryland, by the Washington Suburban Transit Commission. In each instance the Director shall be appointed from among the members of the appointing body, except as otherwise provided herein, and shall serve for a term coincident with his term on the body by which he was appointed. A director may be removed or suspended from office only as provided by the law of the signatory from which he was appointed. The appointing authorities shall also appoint an alternate for each Director, who may act only in the absence of the Director for whom he has been appointed an alternate, except that, in the case of the District of Columbia where only one Director and his alternate are present, such alternate may act on behalf of the absent Director. Each alternate shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Director or alternate, it shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment.”

(3) Section 21 of article VII is amended to read as follows:

“Temporary Borrowing

“21. The Board may borrow, in anticipation of receipts, from any signatory, the Washington Suburban Transit District, the Northern Virginia Transportation District or any component government thereof, or from any lending institution for any purposes of this title, including administrative expenses. Such loans shall be for a term not to exceed two years and at such rates of interest as shall be acceptable to the Board. The signatories and any such political subdivision or agency may, in its discretion, make such loans from any available money.”

(4) Section 35 of article IX is amended to read as follows:

“Interest

“35. Bonds shall bear interest at such rate or rates as may be determined by the Board, payable annually or semiannually.”

(5) Section 39 of article IX is amended to read as follows:

“Sale

“39. The Board may fix terms and conditions for the sale or other disposition of any authorized issue of bonds. The Board may sell bonds at less than their par or face value but no issue of bonds may be sold at an aggregate price below the par or face value thereof if such sale would result in a net interest cost to the Authority calculated upon the entire issue so sold in excess of the applicable rate determined by the

Board, payable semiannually, computed with relation to the absolute maturity of the bonds according to standard tables of bond values, deducting the amount of any premium to be paid on the redemption of any bonds prior to maturity. All bonds issued and sold pursuant to this title may be sold in such manner, either at public or private sale, as the Board shall determine."

(6) Section 51 of article XI is amended to read as follows:

"Operation by Contract or Lease

"51. Any facilities and properties owned or controlled by the Authority may be operated by the Authority directly or by others pursuant to contract or lease as the Board may determine."

(7) Section 66 of article XIV is amended to read as follows:

"Operations

"66. (a) The rights, benefits, and other employee protective conditions and remedies of section 13(c) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1609(c)), as determined by the Secretary of Labor shall apply to the operation by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority of any mass transit facilities owned or controlled by it and to any contract or other arrangement for the operation of transit facilities. Whenever the Authority shall operate any transit facility or enter into any contractual or other arrangements for the operation of such transit facility the Authority shall extend to employees of affected mass transportation systems first opportunity for transfer and appointment as employees of the Authority in accordance with seniority, in any nonsupervisory job in respect to such operations for which they can qualify after a reasonable training period. Such employment shall not result in any worsening of the employee's position in his former employment nor any loss of wages, hours, working conditions, seniority, fringe benefits and rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

"(b) The Authority shall deal with and enter into written contracts with employees as defined in section 152 of title 29, United States Code, through accredited representatives of such employees or representatives of any labor organization authorized to act for such employees concerning wages, salaries, hours, working conditions, and pension or retirement provisions.

"(c) In case of any labor dispute involving the Authority and such employees where collective bargaining does not result in agreement, the Authority shall submit such dispute to arbitration by a board composed of three persons, one appointed by the Authority, one appointed by the labor organization representing the employees, and a third member to be agreed upon by the labor organization and the Authority. The member agreed upon by the labor organization and the Authority shall act as chairman of the board. The determination of the majority of the board of arbitration, thus established shall be final and binding on all matters in dispute. If after a period of ten days from the date of the appointment of the two arbitrators representing the Authority and the labor organization, the third arbitrator has not been selected,

80 Stat. 1340.
D. C. Code
1-1431 note.

78 Stat. 307;
80 Stat. 715.

61 Stat. 137.

then either arbitrator may request the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to furnish a list of five persons from which the third arbitrator shall be selected. The arbitrators appointed by the Authority and the labor organization, promptly after the receipt of such list shall determine by lot the order of elimination, and thereafter each shall in that order alternately eliminate one name until only one name remains. The remaining person on the list shall be the third arbitrator. The term 'labor dispute' shall be broadly construed and shall include any controversy concerning wages, salaries, hours, working conditions, or benefits including health and welfare, sick leave, insurance or pension or retirement provisions but not limited thereto, and including any controversy concerning any differences or questions that may arise between the parties including but not limited to the making or maintaining of collective bargaining agreements, the terms to be included in such agreements, and the interpretation or application of such collective bargaining agreements and any grievance that may arise and questions concerning representation. Each party shall pay one-half of the expenses of such arbitration.

"Labor dispute."

"(d) The Authority is hereby authorized and empowered to establish and maintain a system of pensions and retirement benefits for such officers and employees of the Authority as may be designated or described by resolution of the Authority; to fix the terms of and restrictions on admission to such system and the classifications therein; to provide that persons eligible for admission in such pension system shall not be eligible for admission to, or receive any benefits from, any other pension system (except social security benefits), which is financed or funded, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly by funds paid or appropriated by the Authority to such other pension system, and to provide in connection with such pension system, a system of benefits payable to the beneficiaries and dependents of any participant in such pension system after the death of such participant (whether accidental or otherwise, whether occurring in the actual performance of duty or otherwise, or both) subject to such exceptions, conditions, restrictions and classifications as may be provided by resolution of the Authority. Such pension system shall be financed or funded by such means and in such manner as may be determined by the Authority to be economically feasible. Unless the Authority shall otherwise determine, no officer or employee of the Authority and no beneficiary or dependent of any such officer or employee shall be eligible to receive any pension or retirement or other benefits both from or under any such pension system and from or under any pension or retirement system established by an acquired transportation system or established or provided for, by or under the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement between the Authority and the representatives of its employees.

"(e) Whenever the Authority acquires existing transit facilities from a public or privately owned utility either in proceeding by eminent domain or otherwise, the Authority shall assume and observe all existing labor contracts and pension obligations. When the Authority acquires an existing transportation system, all employees who are necessary for the operation thereof by the Authority shall be transferred to and appointed as employees of the Authority, subject to all the rights and benefits of this title. These employees shall be given seniority credit and sick leave, vacation, insurance and pension credits in accordance with the records or labor agreements from the acquired transportation system. Members and beneficiaries of any pension or retirement system or other benefits established by the acquired transportation system shall continue to have rights, privileges, benefits, obligations and status with respect to such established system. The Authority shall assume the obligations of any transportation system

acquired by it with regard to wages, salaries, hours, working conditions, sick leave, health and welfare and pension or retirement provisions for employees. It shall assume the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement between such acquired transportation system and the representatives of its employees. The Authority and the employees, through their representatives for collective bargaining purposes, shall take whatever action may be necessary to have pension trust funds presently under the joint control of the acquired transportation system and the participating employees through their representative transferred to the trust fund to be established, maintained and administered jointly by the Authority and the participating employees through their representatives. No employee of any acquired transportation system who is transferred to a position with the Authority shall by reason of such transfer be placed in any worse position with respect to workmen's compensation, pension, seniority, wages, sick leave, vacation, health and welfare insurance or any other benefits, than he enjoyed as an employee of such acquired transportation system."

(8) Section 79 of article XVI is amended to read as follows:

"Reduced Fares

"79. The District of Columbia, the Northern Virginia Transportation District, the Washington Suburban Transit District and the component governments thereof, may enter into contracts or agreements with the Authority to make equitable payments for fares lower than those established by the Authority pursuant to the provisions of article XIII hereof for any specified class or category of riders."

(b) The Commissioner of the District of Columbia is authorized and directed to enter into and execute on behalf of the District of Columbia amendments, substantially as set forth in subsection (a), to title III of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact with the States of Virginia and Maryland.

Approved July 13, 1972.

Public Law 92-350

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the President to designate the calendar month of September 1972 as "National Voter Registration Month".

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in recognition of the importance of Congress promotion and encouragement of voter registration by all qualified citizens, especially those newly enfranchised by the twenty-sixth amendment to the Constitution, the President is authorized and directed to proclaim the period beginning September 1, 1972, and ending September 30, 1972, as "National Voter Registration Month", and to call upon the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved July 13, 1972.

80 Stat. 1350.
D. C. Code
1-1431 note.

D. C. Code
1-1431 note.

July 13, 1972
[S. J. Res. 245]

National Voter
Registration
Month.
Designation
authorization.