

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0084R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, D'Adamo, Henry, Young, Holton, Welch, Branch,
Conaway, Spector, Kraft, Curran, Middleton, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: October 27, 2008

Assigned to: Education Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Allowing Students To Use MTA Bus Tickets and Transfers Until 8:00 P.M.**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the MTA to instruct all transit operators to accept Baltimore City
4 Schools bus tickets and student transfer tickets as valid until 8:00 p.m. on school days.

5 **WHEREAS**, After-school opportunities help public school students

6 (1) acquire academic, cultural, and athletic skills,

7 (2) participate in positive activities with adult and older peer role models, and

8 (3) engage in stimulating, positive, and exciting activities, as opposed to the many
9 opportunities for negative activities before parents have arrived home from work, and

10 **WHEREAS**, After-school services represent a substantial investment from both the Baltimore
11 City budget and the City Schools budget, and therefore the City has an interest in those services
12 being used by the largest number of students possible; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Funded after-school activities have greatly increased in number over the past ten
14 years because of increased attention to the importance of these services; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Subsidized bus transportation is a critical factor enabling low-income students to
16 participate in after-school activities; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The travel window for use of subsidized bus tickets is ordinarily until 6:30 p.m.
18 but can extend until 8:00 p.m., provided that students have their bus tickets stamped by an
19 authorized stamp at their school; and

20 **WHEREAS**, It is often extremely difficult or impossible for students to get their subsidized
21 bus tickets stamped by an authorized stamp, because

22 (1) the stamp is often inaccessible when students try to find an administrator to stamp
23 their ticket, or

24 (2) the stamp has been lost or stolen from the school, or

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 (3) the after-school activity takes place at an off-campus location, or the student is
2 inhibited by the potential obstacles in the process from even trying to find the
3 authorized stamp; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Students who participate in after-school programs at off-campus locations must
5 “use up” their bus ticket in traveling to the off-campus location; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Special student transfer tickets expire 90 minutes after they are issued, meaning
7 that students who “used up” their bus ticket getting to an off-campus program have less than 90
8 minutes to participate and travel home before the transfer ticket expires; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Many students are concerned that their bus tickets or transfers will have expired
10 before they have traveled home if they stay for an after-school activity or travel to an off-campus
11 location for an after-school activity; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Eliminating the need for having bus tickets stamped and the 90 minute
13 expiration on student transfers *does not alter the already established policy* that from the end of
14 school until 8:00 p.m. is a reasonable window for secondary school students to participate in
15 after school activities; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Eliminating the need for having bus tickets stamped and the 90 minute expiration
17 on student transfers would make it easier for students to participate in after school activities,
18 because they could be assured of getting home before the 8:00 expiration of their ticket; and

19 **WHEREAS**, A major cause of student disruptions on MTA buses after school is over-
20 crowding and student frustration from overcrowded buses; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Additional students participating in after school activities would likely reduce
22 overcrowding on buses and also disruptive incidents by spreading out homeward travel over a
23 longer period; and

24 **WHEREAS**, It is inequitable and unacceptable that public school students who can afford bus
25 fare are able to participate in certain after school activities but students who cannot afford bus
26 fare are “timed out” of participation because of bus ticket expiration.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this
28 Body urges the MTA to instruct all transit operators to accept Baltimore City Schools bus tickets
29 and student transfer tickets as valid until 8:00 p.m. on school days.

30 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
31 MTA Administrator, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Council.