

H.R. 3960, THE “RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUTER TOLL FAIRNESS ACT OF 2010”
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SUMMARY

H.R. 3960, as amended, the “Residential and Commuter Toll Fairness Act of 2010”, clarifies the existing authority of, and as necessary provides express authorization for, public entities to offer residentially-based toll discounts in communities that bear heavy toll burdens due to geographic constraints (e.g., communities on islands or peninsulas accessed only by toll bridges).

SECTION-BY-SECTION OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short Title.

Section 1 states that this Act may be cited as the “Residential and Commuter Toll Fairness Act of 2010”.

Sec. 2. Findings.

This section includes findings related to the incidences of transportation tolls, the use of revenues from those tolls, the heavy toll burdens borne by some localities in which transportation access is substantially constrained by geography, and the residentially-based toll discount programs that localities have developed to address these burdens.

Sec. 3. Purpose.

This section states that the purpose of the Act is to clarify the existing authority of, and as necessary provide express authorization for, public authorities to offer discounts in transportation tolls to captive tollpayers. “Public authorities” include varying levels of governmental entities (e.g., state, tribal, and local governments) and “captive tollpayers” are defined as individuals who reside in, or regularly commute to, areas with geographically-constrained transportation access that requires the payment of transportation tolls or fares.

Sec. 4. Transportation Tolls.

Subsection (a) authorizes public authorities to carry out programs that offer discounts in transportation tolls to captive tollpayers.

Subsection (b) clarifies that nothing in the Act limits any other existing authorities possessed by these public authorities, including the authority to offer toll discounts to other travelers. The subsection also clarifies that nothing in the Act affects, alters, or limits the applicability of existing State or local laws regarding the authority to impose toll discounts.

Sec. 5. Definitions.

Section 5 provides definitions for terms used in the Act.