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SENATE BILL NO. 1049

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

A BILL to amend and reenact § 33.1-12 of the Code of Virginia, relating to powers and duties of the Commonwealth Transportation Board; awarding of design-build contracts; standards for advancing projects from the feasibility stage to the construction stage.

Patron—Williams

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 33.1-12 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 33.1-12. General powers and duties of Board; definitions.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall be vested with the following powers and shall have the following duties:

(1) Location of routes. - To locate and establish the routes to be followed by the roads comprising systems of state highways between the points designated in the establishment of such systems.

(2) Construction contracts. - To let all contracts for the construction and improvement of the roads comprising systems of state highways and for all activities related to passenger and freight rail and public transportation. *The Commonwealth Transportation Board may annually award no more than ten contracts for the construction of transportation projects on a design-build basis. Five of the contracts shall be valued no more than \$20 million, and five of the contracts shall be valued more than \$20 million. These contracts may be awarded after a written determination is made by the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner that delivery of the projects must be expedited and that it is not in the public interest to comply with the design and construction contracting procedures normally followed. Such determination shall be retained for public inspection in the official records of the Department of Transportation and shall include a description of the nature and scope of the project and the reasons for the Commissioner's determination that awarding a design-build contract will best serve the public interest.*

(3) Traffic regulations. - To make rules and regulations, from time to time, not in conflict with the laws of this Commonwealth, for the protection of and covering traffic on and the use of systems of state highways and to add to, amend or repeal the same.

(4) Naming highways. - To give suitable names to state highways and change the names of any highways forming a part of the systems of state highways, except such roads as have been or may hereafter be named by the General Assembly.

(5) Compliance with federal acts. - To comply fully with the provisions of the present or future federal aid acts. The Board may enter into all contracts or agreements with the United States government and may do all other things necessary to carry out fully the cooperation contemplated and provided for by present or future acts of Congress in the area of transportation.

(6) Information and statistics. - To gather and tabulate information and statistics relating to transportation and disseminate the same throughout the Commonwealth.

(7) Policies and operation of Departments. - To review and approve policies and transportation objectives of the Department of Transportation and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, to assist in establishing such policies and objectives, to oversee the execution thereof, and to report thereon to the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner and the Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, respectively.

(8) Cooperation with other agencies. - To cooperate with the federal government, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and any other organization in the numbering, signing and marking of highways, in the taking of measures for the promotion of highway safety, in research activities, in the preparation of standard specifications, in the testing of highway materials and otherwise with respect to transportation projects.

(9) Transportation. - (a) To monitor and, where necessary, approve actions taken by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation pursuant to Chapter 10.1 (§ 33.1-391.1 et seq.) of this title in order to ensure the efficient and economical development of public transportation, the enhancement of rail transportation, and the coordination of such rail and public transportation plans with highway programs.

(b) To coordinate the planning for financing of transportation needs, including needs for highways, railways, seaports, airports, and public transportation and to set aside funds as provided in § 33.1-23.03:1.

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59 (c) *To establish objective criteria to be used by the Board and the Department of Transportation in*
60 *selecting those transportation projects to be advanced from the feasibility stage to the construction*
61 *stage.*

62 (d) To enter into contracts with local districts, commissions, agencies, or other entities created for
63 transportation purposes.

64 (10) Contracts with other states. - To enter into all contracts with other states necessary for the
65 proper coordination of the location, construction, maintenance, improvement and operation of
66 transportation systems, including the systems of state highways with the highways of such other states
67 and, where necessary, to seek the approval of such contracts by the Congress of the United States.

68 (11) Use of funds. - To administer, distribute, and allocate funds in the Transportation Trust Fund as
69 provided by law.

70 (12) Financial and investment advisors. - With the advice of the Secretary of Finance and the State
71 Treasurer, to engage a financial advisor and investment advisor who may be anyone within or without
72 the government of the Commonwealth, to assist in planning and making decisions concerning the
73 investment of funds and the use of bonds for transportation purposes. The work of these advisors shall
74 be coordinated with the Secretary of Finance and the State Treasurer.

75 (13) The powers of the Virginia Aviation Board set out in Chapter 1 (§ 5.1-1 et seq.) of Title 5.1
76 and the Virginia Port Authority set out in Chapter 10 (§ 62.1-128 et seq.) of Title 62.1 are in no way
77 diminished by the provisions of this title.

78 (14) To enter into payment agreements with the Treasury Board related to payments on bonds issued
79 by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

80 (15) Outdoor theaters. - By regulation:

81 (a) To prevent the erection of moving picture screens of outdoor theaters in such a manner as to be
82 ordinarily visible from any highway;

83 (b) To require that a sufficient space is left between any highway and the entrance to any outdoor
84 theater to prevent congestion on the highway; and

85 (c) To require that outdoor theater entrances and exits are adequately lighted and marked.

86 (16) Maintenance contracts. - To let all contracts equal to or greater than \$250,000 for the
87 maintenance of highways comprising the systems of state highways.

88 Throughout this title the term "systems of state highways" shall have the meaning ascribed thereto by
89 § 1-13.40.

90 The term "public transportation" or "mass transit" as used in this title means passenger transportation
91 by rubber-tired, rail, or other surface conveyance which provides shared ride services open to the general
92 public on a regular and continuing basis. The term does not include school buses; charter or sight-seeing
93 service; vehicular ferry service which serves as a link in the highway network; or human service agency
94 or other client-restricted transportation.