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SENATE BILL NO. 985

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 11, 2005

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 33.1-75.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to advancement of construction funds by counties; reimbursement by Department of Transportation.*

Patron—Watkins

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 33.1-75.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 33.1-75.3. Construction and improvement of primary or secondary highways by counties.

A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the governing body of any county may expend general revenues or revenues derived from the sale of bonds for the purpose of constructing or improving highways, including curbs, gutters, drainageways, sound barriers, sidewalks, and all other features or appurtenances conducive to the public safety and convenience, which either have been or may be taken into the primary or secondary system of state highways. Project planning and the acquisition of rights-of-way shall be under the control and at the direction of the county, subject to the approval of project plans and specifications by the Department of Transportation. All costs incurred by the Department of Transportation in administering such contracts shall be reimbursed from the county's general revenues or from revenues derived from the sale of bonds or such costs may be charged against the funds which the county may be entitled to under the provisions of §§ 33.1-23.1, 33.1-23.2 or § 33.1-23.4.

B. Projects undertaken under the authority of subsection A of this section shall not diminish the funds to which a county may be entitled under the provisions of §§ 33.1-23.1, 33.1-23.2, 33.1-23.4, or § 33.1-75.1.

C. At the request of the county, the Department of Transportation may agree to undertake the design, right-of-way acquisition or construction of projects funded by the county. In such situations, the Department of Transportation and the county will enter into an agreement specifying all relevant procedures and responsibilities concerning the design, right-of-way acquisition, construction or contract administration of projects to be funded by the county. The county will reimburse the Department of Transportation for all costs incurred by the Department in carrying out the aforesaid activities from general revenues or revenues derived from the sale of bonds.

D. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, any county may undertake activities towards the design, land acquisition, or construction of primary or secondary highway projects that have been included in the six-year plan pursuant to § 33.1-70.01, or in the case of a primary highway, an approved project included in the six-year improvement program of the Commonwealth Transportation Board. In such situations, the Department of Transportation and the county shall enter into an agreement specifying all relevant procedures and responsibilities concerning the design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, or contract administration of projects to be funded by the Department. Such activities shall be undertaken with the prior concurrence of the Department of Transportation, and the Department shall reimburse the county for expenses incurred in carrying out these activities. Such reimbursement shall be derived from primary or secondary highway funds which the county may be entitled to under the provisions of this chapter. The county may undertake these activities in accordance with all applicable county procedures, provided the Commissioner finds that those county procedures are substantially similar to departmental procedures and specifications.

E. *If funding is identified in the Department's six-year improvement program and the county chooses to advance funds to the project, the Department shall reimburse the county when the funds become available as shown in the six-year improvement program. In such situation, the Department of Transportation and the county shall enter into an agreement specifying the year in which the reimbursement will take place.*

INTRODUCED

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