

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB 1389

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed

Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Edwards

3. **Committee:** Transportation

4. **Title:** TransDominion Express Commission; created.

5. **Summary/Purpose:** This bill establishes the TransDominion Express Commission to be responsible, within the TransDominion Corridor, for identifying needed construction, reconstruction, improvements of or repairs to railroads and their facilities and equipment to provide enhanced passenger rail service coordinated with freight rail opportunities within the Corridor. The Commission may finance or assist in financing any rail transportation project. The bill also repeals Chapter 1041 of the 2003 Acts of Assembly, which provided for the creation of a Rail Transportation Development Authority but never became effective because its "reenactment clause" was never satisfied.

6. **No fiscal impact.** See Item 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** Yes, Item 440. Although the bill does not explicitly state that Commission members will be compensated and reimbursed for expenses through the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the legislation will be placed under that section of the Code pertaining to the agency.

8. **Fiscal implications:** The TransDominion Corridor is defined by the bill as the intercity rail corridor from Bristol through Roanoke and Lynchburg, including branches from Lynchburg to Richmond and from Lynchburg to Washington, D.C, through Charlottesville. The Commission will initially consist of 15 members: three appointed by the Governor, one member of the House of Delegates, one member of the Senate, and one member from each of the ten planning districts in the TransDominion Corridor. The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation will serve ex-officio. The initial members will establish bylaws and requirements for future membership.

This analysis assumes that the Commission will meet four times per year and that four of the members live near Richmond and their expenses would be \$20 per meeting, six of the members live in central Virginia and their expenses would be \$50 per meeting, and the five remaining members would incur expenses of \$120 per meeting. The calculations for expenses and compensation to fund the Commission are as follows:

Estimated expenses and compensation annual costs

Number of Commission members	15
Meetings per year	4

Expense reimbursement	\$20 - \$120
(4 at \$20; 6 at \$50; 5 at \$120)	
Compensation per day for General Assembly members	\$200

Calculations

Compensation:

2 members * \$200 * 4 annual meetings	\$1,600
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Expense:

4 members * \$20 * 4 annual meetings	\$320
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6 members * \$50 * 4 annual meetings	\$1,200
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<u>5 members * \$120 * 4 annual meetings</u>	<u>\$2,400</u>
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Total annual expenses	\$3,920
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Total annual compensation and expenses	\$5,520
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9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: The bill does not specify who will serve as staff to the Commission.

This bill is a companion to HB 2164, which did not pass in the House.

Date: 2/5/07/jlv

Document: G:\06-08\07 Budget Development\FIS\SB1389S1.Doc Janet Vogelgesang

cc: Secretary of Transportation