

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 33.1-221.1:1.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Rail Enhancement*  
3 *Fund.*

4 [H 1835]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 33.1-221.1:1.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 33.1-221.1:1.1. Rail Enhancement Fund.

9 A. The General Assembly declares it to be in the public interest that railway preservation and  
10 development of railway transportation facilities are an important element of a balanced transportation  
11 system of the Commonwealth for freight and passengers and further declares it to be in the public  
12 interest that the retention, maintenance, improvement and development of ~~the freight and passenger~~  
13 railways are essential to the Commonwealth's continued economic growth, vitality, and competitiveness  
14 in national and world markets, and there is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting  
15 fund to be known as the Rail Enhancement Fund which shall be considered a special fund within the  
16 Transportation Trust Fund, hereafter referred to as "the Fund."

17 B. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller, and shall consist of dedications  
18 pursuant to § 58.1-2425 and such funds from other sources as may be set forth in the appropriation act  
19 and shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund  
20 shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest  
21 thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund.  
22 Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely as provided in this section. Expenditures and disbursements  
23 from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written  
24 request signed by the Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation or the  
25 Director's designee.

26 C. The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall administer and expend or  
27 commit, subject to the approval of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Fund for acquiring,  
28 leasing, and/or improving railways or railroad equipment, rolling stock, rights-of-way or facilities, or  
29 assisting other appropriate entities to acquire, lease, or improve railways or railroad equipment, rolling  
30 stock, rights-of-way or facilities, for freight and/or passenger rail transportation purposes whenever the  
31 Board shall have determined that such acquisition, lease, and/or improvement is for the common good of  
32 a region of the Commonwealth or the Commonwealth as a whole. Prior to recommending an allocation  
33 of the Fund to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Director of the Department of Rail and  
34 Public Transportation shall consult with and obtain the advice and recommendations of the Rail  
35 Advisory Board established pursuant to § 33.1-391.3:1.

36 D. Projects undertaken pursuant to this section shall be limited to those the Commonwealth  
37 Transportation Board shall have determined will result in public benefits to the Commonwealth or to a  
38 region of the Commonwealth that are equal to or greater than the investment of funds under this section.  
39 *Such public benefits shall include, but not be limited to, the impact of the project on traffic congestion,*  
40 *environmental quality, and whenever possible, give due consideration to passenger rail capacity on*  
41 *corridors identified by the Commonwealth Transportation Board that have existing or proposed*  
42 *passenger rail service.* Such projects shall include a minimum of 30 percent cash or in-kind matching  
43 contribution from a private source, which may include a railroad, a regional authority, or a local  
44 government source, or a combination of such sources.

ENROLLED

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