

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1835

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Toscano

3. Committee: Passed both houses

4. Title: Rail Enhancement Fund; may be used to subsidize railroad operations.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would clarify that the Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) may be used for freight and passenger railways. The bill also amends the public benefit criteria used to judge investments of the REF to include a proposal's impact on traffic congestion and environmental quality. The public benefit criteria is also amended to give consideration to passenger rail capacity on corridors identified by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) that have existing or proposed passenger rail service.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See Item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Code of Virginia currently limits the use of REF funds to projects which the CTB has determined will result in public benefits to the Commonwealth or to a region of the Commonwealth that are equal to or greater than the investment of funds. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) determines such results through a public benefit model that analyzes the costs and benefit of various projects. The model currently accounts for the criteria noted in the proposed legislation. There would be no additional cost to the state.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Commonwealth Transportation Board

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 2/19/2009 dpb/smc

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cc: Secretary of Transportation