

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2158

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Toscano

3. Committee: House Counties, Cities and Towns

4. Title: **Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority.**

- 5. Summary:** The proposed legislation would establish the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (the Authority) encompassing the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County if their respective governing bodies adopt an approving ordinance or resolution. The bill authorizes the Counties of Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson to join the Authority, as well as private nonprofit tourist-driven agencies, higher education facilities, and public transportation agencies of the Charlottesville-Albemarle area. The Authority's board is to be comprised of two members from Charlottesville and Albemarle and one member from each of the additional counties which join and up to four members representing the interests of such agencies, institutions, and facilities that join the Authority. Members are to be reimbursed either at the rate of members of the General Assembly receive when the General Assembly is out of session or by a lesser amount as determined by the Authority.

The Authority is to prepare a regional transit plan for all or a portion of the areas located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the member localities. The plan is to include, but not necessarily be limited to, transit improvements of regional significance.

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

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation would create the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority and authorize it to create a regional transit plan. No funding source is identified for the Authority to use in carrying out its duties or reimburse the members of its board of directors or staff hired by the Authority. The bill directs that the administrative expenses of the Authority, to the extent they are not provided for in the Authority's annual budget, shall be allocated among the participating counties, city, agencies, institutions, and facilities pursuant to a funding formula as adopted by the Authority.

The bill would require the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to make its employees available to assist the Authority, upon request. As DRPT currently provides assistance to transit operators, this requirement should not pose a financial burden on the agency.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson and the City of Charlottesville

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: HB 2161 grants Charlottesville and Albemarle County the authority to impose up to an additional 1 percent sales and use tax to fund transit projects and other transportation improvements, pursuant to approval in a referendum. The bill specifies that appropriate transit expenditures include, but are not limited to, the locality's share of a regional transit authority

Date: 1/23/2009 dpb/smc

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cc: Secretary of Transportation