

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB863

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

2. Patron: Edwards

3. Committee: Rules

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

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would establish 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.

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

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation would create the TransDominion Express Commission, initially consisting of 15 voting members and one ex-officio member. Three members are to be appointed by the Governor, one member from the House, one from the Senate, and 10 from certain planning district commissions. The initial members are to establish bylaws and requirements for membership, including provision for membership of individual localities and the minimum dues or other financial obligations required for voting privileges.

Section 2.2-2813, Code of Virginia, establishes a compensation rate of \$50 for citizen members of boards or commissions, in addition to the reimbursement of necessary and actual expenses. Members of the General Assembly receive a per diem of \$200 when engaged in legislative business between sessions, in addition to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses. State employees are not reimbursed for meetings or expenses. Using a figure of \$150 in actual and necessary expenses per member, the reimbursement of the two General Assembly members and 13 citizen members would equal \$3,300 per meeting. If four meetings were held a year, the commission would cost \$13,200 annually. The proposed legislation does not specify a source of funding for these or any other expenses.

The Governor's proposed budget assumes the suspension of per diem payments to citizen members of to citizen members of the Commonwealth's various boards and commission for executive branch agencies. If per diem payments were not made to citizen members of the TransDominion Express Commission, the cost of the proposed legislation would be \$2,650 per meeting or \$10,600 per year if four meetings were held annually.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Any locality participating in the TransDominion Express Commission.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/21/2009 dpb/smc

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cc: Secretary of Transportation