

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2010 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB1275

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

**2. Patron:** Cosgrove

**3. Committee:** House Transportation

**4. Title:** **Virginia High-Speed Rail Commission.**

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation would establish the Virginia High-Speed Rail Commission to study, assess, and advise on matters related to high-speed passenger rail service in Virginia, such as effective and competitive design, planning, financing, construction, and operations. The Commission is also to coordinate high-speed rail programs with neighboring states and federal and regional entities. The Commission is to consist of three members of the House of Delegates, two members of the Virginia Senate, one member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board and one member of the Rail Advisory Board. All members are to be appointed by the Governor. Two additional members shall be ex-officio.

The Virginia High-Speed Rail Commission is to replace the Virginia-North Carolina High Speed Rail Commission. The proposed bill would replace the Acts of Assembly chapter which established the Virginia-North Carolina High Speed Rail Commission.

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

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** None.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation provides that the Commission is to be funded by appropriations from the General Assembly or funds allocated by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation is to provide staff for the Commission.

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 \$100 in actual and necessary expenses per member, the reimbursement of the five General Assembly members and two citizen members would equal \$1,800 per meeting.

The Governor's proposed budget assumes the suspension of per diem payments to all members of the Commonwealth's various executive branch boards and commissions. If per

diem payments were not made to the members of the Commission, the cost of the proposed legislation would be \$700 per meeting or \$1,400 per year if two meetings were held annually.

Unless a budget amendment is included directing otherwise, any funds needed to support the Commission would come from existing transportation resources.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Rail and Public Transportation

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 2/16/2010 dpb/smc

**Document:** G:\GA\FIS 2010\HB1275E.doc