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SENATE BILL NO. 531

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Transportation
on February 23, 2012)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Marsden)

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 33.1-13.03:1, relating to evaluation of transportation projects in the Northern Virginia Transportation District; reports.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 33.1-13.03:1 as follows:

§ 33.1-13.03:1. *Responsibilities of the Department of Transportation for long-range transportation planning in the Northern Virginia Transportation District.*

A. *In establishing the policies and priorities for the Northern Virginia Transportation District, the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, shall evaluate all significant transportation projects, including highway, mass transit, and technology projects, in and near the Northern Virginia Transportation District, to the extent that funds are available for such purpose, and provide an objective, quantitative rating for each project according to the degree that congestion is expected to be reduced by the project and the degree to which regional mobility is expected to be improved by the project in the event of a homeland security emergency. Such evaluation shall rely on analytical techniques and transportation modeling, including those that employ computer simulations currently and customarily employed in transportation planning. The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall consider the quantitative ratings in the allocation of transportation infrastructure funds. The Department of Transportation may rely on the results of transportation modeling performed by other entities, including the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and private entities contracted for this purpose, provided that such modeling is in accordance with this section. The Department of Transportation shall publicize the quantitative ratings determined for each project on its website and complete the evaluation at least once every four years, with interim updates provided on the website at least once every six months starting January 1, 2013.*

B. *For purposes of this section, the significant transportation projects to be evaluated shall comprise at least 25 such projects selected according to priorities determined by the Department of Transportation, without regard to the funding source of the project, and shall include but not be limited to:*

1. *Projects included in the version of the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board in effect when the evaluation is made, plus additional projects in the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's TransAction 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and subsequent updates; and*

2. *Other highway, rail, bus, and technology projects that could make a significant impact on mobility in the region, to include additional Potomac River crossings west and south of Washington, D.C.; extension of the Metro Orange Line, Metro Yellow Line, and Metro Blue Line; bus rapid transit on Interstate Route 66; vehicle capacity and mass transit improvements on the U.S. Route 1 corridor; and implementation of relevant portions of the Statewide Transportation Plan established pursuant to § 33.1-23.03.*