

17104082D

SENATE BILL NO. 1554

Offered January 20, 2017

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 33.2-1907 of the Code of Virginia, relating to transportation district commissions; Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission.*

 Patron—Cosgrove

 Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 33.2-1907 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 33.2-1907. Members of transportation district commissions.**

A. Any transportation district commission created pursuant to this chapter shall consist of the number of members the component governments shall agree upon, or as may otherwise be provided by law. The governing body of each participating county and city shall appoint from among its members the number of commissioners to which the county or city is entitled; however, for those commissions with powers as set forth in subsection A of § 33.2-1915, the governing body of each participating county or city is not limited to appointing commissioners from among its members. In addition, the governing body may appoint, from its number or otherwise, designated alternate members for those appointed to the commission who shall be able to exercise all of the powers and duties of a commission member when the regular member is absent from commission meetings. Each such appointee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing body; however, no appointee to a commission with powers as set forth in subsection B of § 33.2-1915 may continue to serve when he is no longer a member of the appointing body. Each governing body shall inform the commission of its appointments to and removals from the commission by delivering to the commission a certified copy of the resolution making the appointment or causing the removal.

The Chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, or his designee, shall be a member of each commission, ex officio with voting privileges. The Chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board may appoint an alternate member who may exercise all the powers and duties of the Chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board when neither the Chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board nor his designee is present at a commission meeting.

The Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission shall also include two members of the House of Delegates and one member of the Senate from legislative districts located wholly or in part within the boundaries of the transportation district. The members of the House of Delegates shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House for terms coincident with their terms of office, and the member of the Senate shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules for a term coincident with his term of office. The members of the General Assembly shall be eligible for reappointment for successive terms. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

The Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission shall have a total membership of 10 members that shall consist of nine nonlegislative citizen members and one ex officio member. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor as follows: two members of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors, two members of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors, and five members who are representatives of businesses in Accomack and Northampton Counties. The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation or his designee shall serve ex officio with voting privileges for a term coincident with his term of office. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads shall consist of one nonlegislative citizen member appointed by the Governor from each county and city embraced by the transportation district. However, for the gubernatorial appointments that will become effective July 1, 2016, three of the appointments shall be for initial terms of two years and three appointments shall be for terms of four years. Thereafter, all gubernatorial appointments shall be for terms of four years so as to stagger the terms of the gubernatorial appointees. The governing body of each such county or city may appoint either a member of its governing body or its county or city manager to serve as an ex officio member with voting privileges. Every such ex officio member shall be allowed to attend all meetings of the commission that other members may be required to attend. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

B. The Secretary or his designee and any appointed member of the Northern Virginia Transportation

INTRODUCED

SB1554

59 Commission are authorized to serve as members of the board of directors of the Washington
60 Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (§ 33.2-3100 et seq.) and while so serving the provisions of §
61 2.2-2800 shall not apply to such member. In appointing Virginia members of the board of directors of
62 the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the Northern Virginia Transportation
63 Commission shall include the Secretary or his designee as a principal member on the board of directors
64 of WMATA. Any designee serving as the principal member must reside in a locality served by
65 WMATA.

66 In selecting from its membership those members to serve on the board of directors of WMATA, the
67 Northern Virginia Transportation Commission shall comply with the following requirements:

68 1. A board member shall not have been an employee of WMATA within one year of appointment to
69 serve on the board of directors.

70 2. A board member shall have (i) experience in at least one of the fields of transit planning,
71 transportation planning, or land use planning; transit or transportation management or other public sector
72 management; engineering; finance; public safety; homeland security; human resources; or the law or (ii)
73 knowledge of the region's transportation issues derived from working on regional transportation issue
74 resolution.

75 3. A board member shall be a regular patron of the services provided by WMATA.

76 4. Board members shall serve a term of four years with a maximum of two consecutive terms. A
77 board member's term or terms must coincide with his term on the body that appointed him to the
78 Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. Any vacancy created if a board member cannot fulfill his
79 term because his term on the appointing body has ended shall be filled for the unexpired term in the
80 same manner as the member being replaced was appointed within 60 days of the vacancy. The initial
81 appointments to a four-year term will be as follows: the Secretary, or his designee, for a term of four
82 years; the second principal member for a term of three years; one alternate for a term of two years; and
83 the remaining alternate for a term of one year. Thereafter, board members shall be appointed for terms
84 of four years. Service on the WMATA board of directors prior to July 1, 2012, shall not be considered
85 in determining length of service. Any person appointed to an initial one-year or two-year term, or
86 appointed to an unexpired term in which two years or less is remaining, shall be eligible to serve two
87 consecutive four-year terms after serving the initial or unexpired term.

88 5. Members may be removed from the board of directors of WMATA if they attend fewer than
89 three-fourths of the meetings in a calendar year; if they are conflicted due to employment at WMATA;
90 or if they are found to be in violation of the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (§
91 2.2-3100 et seq.). If a board member is removed during a term, the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to
92 the provisions of subdivision 4.

93 6. Each member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission appointed to the board of
94 directors of WMATA shall file semiannual reports with the Secretary's office beginning July 1, 2012.
95 The reports shall include (i) the dates of attendance at WMATA board meetings, (ii) any reasons for not
96 attending a specific meeting, and (iii) dates and attendance at other WMATA-related public events.

97 7. Each nonelected member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission appointed to the
98 board of directors of WMATA shall be eligible to receive reasonable and necessary expenses and
99 compensation pursuant to §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825 from the Northern Virginia Transportation
100 Commission for attending meetings and for the performance of his official duties as a board member on
101 that day.

102 Any entity that provides compensation to a WMATA board member for his service on the WMATA
103 board shall be required to submit on July 1 of each year to the Secretary the amount of that
104 compensation. Such letter will remain on file with the Secretary's office and be available for public
105 review.

106 C. When the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahannock
107 Transportation Commission enter into an agreement to operate a commuter railway, the agreement
108 governing the creation of the railway shall provide that the Chairman of the Commonwealth
109 Transportation Board or his designee shall have one vote on the oversight board for the railway. For
110 each year in which the state contribution to the railway is greater than or equal to the highest
111 contribution from an individual locality, the total annual subsidy as provided by the member localities
112 used to determine vote weights shall be recalculated to include the Commonwealth contributing an
113 amount equal to the highest contributing locality. The vote weights shall be recalculated to provide the
114 Chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board or his designee the same weight as the highest
115 contributing locality. The revised vote weights shall be used in determining the passage of motions
116 before the oversight board.