

2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 542

Requesting the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to study transit equity and modernization in the Commonwealth. Report.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 25, 2021

Agreed to by the Senate, February 27, 2021

WHEREAS, public transit is vital for the equitable growth of the Commonwealth's economy, transportation infrastructure, and sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, people across the Commonwealth rely on public transit to reach employment opportunities, socialize with friends and family, connect with their communities, and meaningfully participate in our society; and

WHEREAS, many transportation systems in the Commonwealth lack the necessary infrastructure to provide essential public transit needs; and

WHEREAS, in order to make public transit in the Commonwealth a world-class transportation system, we must analyze equity issues as we focus on improvements, increased efficiency, and modernization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Rail and Public Transportation be requested to study transit equity and modernization in the Commonwealth.

In conducting its study, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall complete a needs assessment focusing on the equitable delivery of transportation services and modernization of transit in the Commonwealth. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation, with the cooperation of all transit agencies that receive funding pursuant to subdivision D 1 of § 33.2-1526.1 of the Code of Virginia, shall study of transit accessibility, adequacy of transit infrastructure, transit electrification, implementation of emerging technology, transit safety, and transit system engagement. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall place particular emphasis on transit services and engagement opportunities for underserved and underrepresented communities.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for this study, upon request.

The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an interim report containing an executive summary of its activity and work no later than December 1, 2021, and a final report containing an executive summary of its activities and recommendations no later than August 1, 2022. Such reports shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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