

## 2022 SESSION

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### SENATE BILL NO. 342

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 33.2-1526.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Transit Ridership Incentive Program.*

Patrons—Barker, Boysko and McClellan

Referred to Committee on Transportation

#### **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 33.2-1526.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

#### **§ 33.2-1526.3. Transit Ridership Incentive Program.**

A. The Board shall establish the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (the Program) to promote improved transit service in urbanized areas of the Commonwealth with a population in excess of 100,000 and to reduce barriers to transit use for low-income individuals.

B. The goal of the Program shall be to encourage the identification and establishment of routes of regional significance, the development and implementation of a regional subsidy allocation model, implementation of integrated fare collection, establishment of bus-only lanes on routes of regional significance, and other actions and service determined by the Board to improve transit service.

C. The Board shall establish guidelines for the implementation the Program and review such guidelines, at a minimum, every five years. The funds in the Program shall be awarded such that on a five-year rolling average, the amount of funds awarded to each urbanized area shall be equal to a ratio of the population within the Commonwealth of such urbanized area compared to the total population within the Commonwealth of all eligible urbanized areas. The Board may through an affirmative vote of a majority of the members vote to waive this requirement for a period not to exceed two years when they find there is a need that justifies such waiver.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Board shall use an amount ~~not to exceed~~ *equal to at least* 25 percent of the funds available to support the establishment of programs to reduce the impact of fares on low-income individuals, including reduced-fare programs and elimination of fares. The restrictions in subsection A shall not apply to funds used pursuant to this subsection, *nor shall the funds used pursuant to this section be used to calculate the rolling average described in subsection C.*

E. The Board shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the projects and services funded by the Program. The report shall, at a minimum, include an analysis of the performance of the funded projects, the performance of the identified routes of regional significance, transit ridership, efforts funded pursuant to subsection E, and any other information the Board determines to be appropriate.

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