

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1996 SESSION

CHAPTER 131

An Act to amend and reenact § 33.1-223 of the Code of Virginia, relating to funding access roads and bikeways to public recreational areas and historical sites.

[S 329]

Approved March 8, 1996

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 33.1-223 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 33.1-223. Fund for access roads and bikeways to public recreational areas and historical sites; construction, maintenance, etc., of such facilities.

A. The General Assembly finds and declares that there is an increasing demand by the public for more public recreational areas throughout the Commonwealth, therefore creating a need for more access to these areas. There are also many sites of historical significance to which access is needed.

The General Assembly hereby declares it to be in the public interest that access roads and bikeways to public recreational areas and historical sites be provided by using funds obtained from motor fuel tax collections on motor fuel used for propelling boats and ships and funds contained in the highway portion of the Transportation Trust Fund.

B. The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall, from funds allocated to the primary system, secondary system, or urban system of state highways, set aside the sum of three million dollars initially. This fund shall be expended by the Board for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance or improvement of access roads and bikeways within counties, cities and towns. At the close of each succeeding fiscal year the Board shall replenish this fund to the extent it deems necessary to carry out the purpose intended, provided the balance in the fund plus the replenishment does not exceed the aforesaid three million dollars.

C. Upon the setting aside of the funds as herein provided, the Commonwealth Transportation Board shall construct, reconstruct, maintain or improve access roads and bikeways to public recreational areas and historical sites upon the following conditions:

1. When the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation has designated a public recreational area as such or an historic area as such and recommends to the Commonwealth Transportation Board that an access road or bikeway be provided or maintained to that area;

2. When the Commonwealth Transportation Board pursuant to the recommendation from the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation declares by resolution that the access road or bikeway be provided or maintained;

3. When the governing body of the county, city or town in which the access road or bikeway is to be provided or maintained passes a resolution requesting the road; and

4. When the governing body of the county, city or town in which the bikeway is to be provided or maintained adopts an ordinance pursuant to Article 8 (§ 15.1-486 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 15.1.

No access road or bikeway shall be constructed, reconstructed, maintained or improved on privately owned property.

D. Any access road constructed, reconstructed, maintained or improved pursuant to the provisions of this section shall become part of the primary system of state highways, the secondary system of state highways or the road system of the locality in which it is located in the manner provided by law ~~and shall be designated as a scenic highway or byway as provided for in Article 5 (§ 33.1-62 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of this title~~, and shall thereafter be constructed, reconstructed, maintained and improved as other roads in such systems. Any bikeway path constructed, reconstructed, maintained, or improved pursuant to the provisions of this section which is not situated within the right-of-way limits of an access road which has become, or which is to become, part of the primary system of state highways, the secondary system of state highways, or the road system of the locality, shall, upon completion, become part of and be regulated and maintained by the authority or agency maintaining the public recreational area or historical site. It shall be the responsibility of the authority, agency, or locality requesting that a bicycle path be provided for a public recreational or historical site to provide the right-of-way needed for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or improvement of the bicycle path if such is to be situated outside the right-of-way limits of an access road.

To maximize the impact of the Fund, not more than \$400,000 of recreational access funds may be allocated for an access road to any facility operated by a state agency and not more than \$250,000 for an access road for a facility operated by a locality or an authority with an additional \$100,000 if supplemented on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the locality or authority from other than highway sources. Not more than \$75,000 of recreational access funds may be allocated to any specific bikeway operated by a state agency and not more than \$60,000 to a bikeway operated by a locality or an authority with

an additional \$15,000 if supplemented on a dollar-for-dollar basis by a locality or authority from other than highway sources.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board, with the concurrence of the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, is hereby authorized to make regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.