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HOUSE BILL NO. 2347

Offered January 20, 1997

A BILL to establish a joint subcommittee to study the construction of proposed Interstate Route 895 under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 and to require authorization by the General Assembly prior to the conclusion of any comprehensive agreement under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995, pertaining to the construction of proposed Interstate Route 895 or any similar facility.

Patrons—Jones, D.C., Cunningham and Spruill

Referred to Committee on Rules

Whereas, it has been proposed that a highway, generally known as Interstate Route 895, be constructed to connect Interstate Route 95 in the vicinity of Virginia Route 150 (Chippenham Parkway) in Chesterfield County, south of the City of Richmond, with Interstate Route 295 in the vicinity of Richmond International Airport in Henrico County, east of the City of Richmond; and

Whereas, it has been proposed that Interstate Route 895 be constructed as a public-private partnership under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995; and

Whereas, both the proposed location of this project and the possibility of its construction as a toll facility have been controversial; and

Whereas, the Public-Private Transportation Act affords no mechanism whereby the construction of proposed Interstate Route 895 may be debated by the General Assembly; and

Whereas, it is highly desirable that proposals for construction of this facility be given full and fair consideration by the elected representatives of the people prior to the conclusion of any related comprehensive agreement under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. There is hereby established a joint subcommittee to study the construction of proposed Interstate Route 895 under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995. The joint subcommittee shall be composed of nine members as follows: five members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and four members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The joint subcommittee shall consider the desirability and feasibility of constructing proposed Interstate Route 895 under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995, and the desirability and feasibility of financing its construction as a toll facility, including the proper amount of the toll, if any.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

Upon completion of its work, the joint subcommittee shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

§ 2. No comprehensive agreement for the construction of proposed Interstate Route 895 shall be entered into by any responsible public entity, as defined in § 56-557 of the Code of Virginia, unless and until authorized to do so by the affirmative vote of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly.

INTRODUCED

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