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HOUSE BILL NO. 1157

Offered January 26, 1998

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 1, 2, and 3, and § 4 as amended of Chapter 630 of the Acts of Assembly of 1964, and to repeal § 5 of Chapter 630 of the Acts of Assembly of 1964, relating to the Northern Virginia Transportation District and other regional commissions and similar entities affecting transportation in Northern Virginia.

Patrons—McClure, Callahan and Devolites

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 1, 2, and 3, and § 4 as amended of Chapter 630 of the Acts of Assembly of 1964 are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 1. Declaration.

The development of a transportation system, composed of transit facilities, public highways, and other modes of transport, is necessary for the orderly growth and development of the area hereinafter defined and of the Commonwealth of Virginia; ~~and the~~ . The creation of a transportation district comprising said area as hereinafter provided, in which shall function as a public instrumentality a transportation commission with all of the powers granted by the "Transportation District Act of 1964," Chapter 45 (§ 15.2-4500 et seq.) of Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia and amendments thereof, ~~and subject to all the provisions thereof~~, is hereby determined to be the most advisable means of planning and developing a transportation system required for said area and for the safety, comfort and convenience of its citizens and for the economical utilization of public funds.

The General Assembly finds that duplications of effort and diffusion of responsibility have resulted from the creation of a multiplicity of commissions and other entities involved with planning, projecting, evaluating, approving, operating, or otherwise affecting transportation in Northern Virginia. Therefore, to the greatest extent practicable, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth, to the greatest extent practicable, to consolidate all regional functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities relating to transportation in Northern Virginia in the Northern Virginia Transportation District and the Consolidated Transportation Commission.

§ 2. Northern Virginia Transportation District Created.

For the purpose of taking advantage of the "Transportation District Act of 1964", ~~there~~ There is hereby created the Northern Virginia Transportation District in which shall function the Northern Virginia Consolidated Transportation Commission; ~~with~~. Except as otherwise provided in this act, the District shall have all of the powers granted by such law Chapter 45 (§ 15.2-4500 et seq.) of Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia, and amendments thereof, and any other law, and subject to all of the provisions thereof, and the district as created shall be deemed for any and all purposes to have been validly created under said Act.

In carrying out its responsibilities under this act, the Commission shall be primarily mindful of the best interest of the District at large and shall give full and equal consideration to the needs for, interests of, and benefits to be derived from all modes of transportation, including but not limited to highway, rail, bus, and all forms of mass transit and mass transit facilities.

No other district shall be created under Chapter 45 (§ 15.2-4500 et seq.) of Title 15.2 within any locality or localities embraced within the District.

§ 3. Northern Virginia Transportation District Described.

Subject to amendment as provided by the "Transportation District Act of 1964", or by other law, the said The Northern Virginia Transportation District shall embrace the Counties of Arlington and, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, and Stafford and the Cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

§ 4. Members of the Consolidated Transportation Commission.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 3, Section 3, of the "Transportation District Act of 1964," the The members of the Northern Virginia Consolidated Transportation Commission shall consist of: five members from Fairfax County; three from Arlington County; one from Loudoun County; four from Prince William County; one from Stafford County; two from the city of Alexandria; one from the city of Falls Church; one from the city of Fairfax; one from the city of Fredericksburg; one from the city of Manassas; one from the city of Manassas Park; the member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board who resides in the Northern Virginia construction district; the Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation or his designee; and the Chairman of the State Highway

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60 ~~and Commonwealth Transportation Commission~~ Commissioner or his designee; ~~the one member of the~~
61 ~~National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, chosen by the Board, who is a resident of~~
62 ~~Virginia; and one member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area~~
63 ~~Transportation Authority, chosen by the Board, who is a resident of Virginia. The members from the~~
64 ~~respective counties and cities shall be appointed by the governing bodies of their county or city in the~~
65 ~~manner specified therein in § 15.2-4507 of the Code of Virginia.~~

66 In addition, the following members shall be appointed:

67 (a) ~~three~~ four members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of
68 Delegates for terms of two years each;

69 (b) ~~two~~ three members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Privileges and Elections of the
70 Senate for terms of four years each.

71 *Only those members of the Commission representing the counties and cities embraced within the*
72 *District and members of the House of Delegates and Senate shall be voting members, all other*
73 *Commission members may participate equally with voting members in all Commission activities, but*
74 *shall serve without a vote. The votes of Commission members representing counties and cities embraced*
75 *within the District shall be weighted so as to reflect the population of the localities those members*
76 *represent.*

77 Members of the General Assembly may be eligible for reappointment so long as they remain
78 members of their respective houses.

79 All voting members; ~~other than the Chairman of the State Highway and Transportation Commission~~
80 ~~or his designee, irrespective of the identity of the appointing authority~~ shall be residents of the territory
81 comprising the District.

82 **2. That § 5 of Chapter 630 of the Acts of Assembly of 1964 is repealed.**

83 **3. That on July 1, 1999, any and all transportation districts hitherto created under Chapter 45**
84 **(§ 15.2-4500 et seq.) of Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia or under Chapter 32 (§ 15.1-1342 et seq.)**
85 **of Title 15.1 of the Code of Virginia are abolished, and their powers and duties are hereby**
86 **transferred to and shall hereafter be vested in the Northern Virginia Transportation District,**
87 **created by Chapter 630, as amended, of the Acts of Assembly of 1964. On and after July 1, 1999,**
88 **no other transportation district shall be created under Chapter 45 (§ 15.2-4500 et seq.) of Title**
89 **15.2 of the Code of Virginia within any locality or localities embraced within the Northern**
90 **Virginia Transportation District. On and after July 1, 1999, all debts, assets, contracts, and**
91 **agreements issued, held or entered into by any transportation district abolished by this act shall be**
92 **deemed issued, held or entered into by the Northern Virginia Transportation District.**

93 **4. That on July 1, 1999, any and all transportation advisory committees and similar entities,**
94 **having responsibility for matters relating to transportation in Northern Virginia and created by**
95 **executive order of the Governor, are abolished. No other such transportation advisory committees**
96 **or similar entities with responsibility for any matters relating to transportation in Northern**
97 **Virginia shall be established by executive order of the Governor.**

98 **5. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 1999.**