

# 1999 SESSION

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 720

*Requesting the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to study the distribution of state and federal aid to mass transit programs.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 25, 1999

Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 1999

WHEREAS, for many regions of the Commonwealth, increased mass transit is a vital component of a balanced transportation improvement strategy; and

WHEREAS, at some times of day in some regions, increased availability and use of mass transit offers the only realistic solution to ever increasing traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, recently enacted federal legislation has made available to Virginia considerably increased funds that are either targeted specifically for mass transit programs or to broad-based transportation improvement programs that could have significant mass transport components; and

WHEREAS, historically, Virginia's mass transit program has not only been generally inadequate, but the formulas used for distributing state and federal aid to regional and local mass transit programs have compounded inadequacy with inequity, by funneling vastly greater sums to some regions and localities than to others; and

WHEREAS, the availability of increased funds to support mass transit programs in Virginia provides an important opportunity to use these increased funds to reduce interregional and other inequities in the formulas used to distribute state and federal aid to regional and local mass transit programs; 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 the distribution of state and federal aid to mass transit programs and recommend to the Governor and General Assembly such legislative and other changes as may appear necessary and desirable. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department for this study, upon request.

The Department shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2000 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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