2006 SPECIAL SESSION I

068978720

SENATE BILL NO. 5004

Offered March 29, 2006

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-4839 and 15.2-4840 of the Code of Virginia, relating to issuance of bonds and imposition and collection of tolls by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

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Patrons—Cuccinelli, Devolites Davis and O'Brien

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Referred to Committee on Transportation

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Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 15.2-4839 and 15.2-4840 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-4839. Authority to issue bonds.

The Authority may issue bonds and other evidences of debt as may be authorized by law. The provisions of Article 5 (§ 15.2-4519 et seq.) of Chapter 45 of this title shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the issuance of such bonds or other debt. *Any such bonds may be supported by tolls imposed and collected as authorized under § 15.2-4840.*

§ 15.2-4840. Other duties and responsibilities of Authority.

In addition to other powers herein granted, the Authority shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. General oversight of regional programs involving mass transit or congestion mitigation, including, but not necessarily limited to, carpooling, vanpooling, and ridesharing;

2. Long-range regional planning, both financially constrained and unconstrained;

3. Recommending to state, regional, and federal agencies regional transportation priorities, including public-private transportation projects, and funding allocations;

4. Developing, in coordination with affected counties and cities, regional priorities and policies to improve air quality;

5. Allocating to priority regional transportation projects any funds made available to the Authority and, at the discretion of the Authority, directly overseeing such projects;

6. Recommending to the Commonwealth Transportation Board priority regional transportation projects for receipt of federal and state funds;

7. ~~Recommending to the Commonwealth Transportation Board use and/or changes in use of~~ *Imposing, collecting, and setting the amount of* tolls for *use of* facilities in the area embraced by the Authority*, when such facility is either newly constructed or reconstructed in such a way as to increase the facility's traffic capacity, with the amount of any tolls variable by time of day, day of the week, vehicle size or type, number of axles, or such other factors as the Authority may deem proper*;

8. General oversight of regional transportation issues of a multijurisdictional nature, including but not limited to intelligent transportation systems, signalization, and preparation for and response to emergencies;

9. Serving as an advocate for the transportation needs of Northern Virginia before the state and federal governments;

10. Applying to and negotiating with the government of the United States, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or any agency ~~or~~*,* instrumentality*, or political subdivision* thereof, for grants and any other funds available to carry out the purposes of this chapter and receiving, holding, accepting, and administering from any source gifts, bequests, grants, aid, or contributions of money, property, labor, or other things of value to be held, used and applied to carry out the purposes of this chapter subject, however, to any conditions upon which gifts, bequests, grants, aid, or contributions are made. Unless otherwise restricted by the terms of the gift, bequest, or grant, the Authority may sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of such money, securities, or other property given or bequeathed to it in furtherance of its purposes; and

11. Acting as a "responsible public entity" for the purpose of the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and/or operation of a "qualifying transportation facility" under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (§ 56-556 et seq.).