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HOUSE BILL NO. 2710

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled January 10, 2007

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-2403 of the Code of Virginia, relating to powers of service districts.

Patrons—Barlow; Senator: Norment

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.2-2403 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-2403. Powers of service districts.

After adoption of an ordinance or ordinances or the entry of an order creating a service district, the governing body or bodies shall have the following powers with respect to the service districts:

1. To construct, maintain, and operate such facilities and equipment as may be necessary or desirable to provide additional, more complete, or more timely governmental services within a service district, including but not limited to water supply, sewerage, garbage removal and disposal, heat, light, fire-fighting equipment and power and gas systems and sidewalks; economic development services; promotion of business and retail development services; beautification and landscaping; beach and shoreline management and restoration; control of infestations of insects that may carry a disease that is dangerous to humans, gypsy moths, cankerworms or other pests identified by the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in accordance with the Virginia Pest Law (§ 3.1-188.20 et seq.); public parking; extra security, street cleaning, snow removal and refuse collection services; sponsorship and promotion of recreational and cultural activities; upon petition of over 50 percent of the property owners who own not less than 50 percent of the property to be served, construction, maintenance, and general upkeep of streets and roads that are not under the operation and jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Transportation; and other services, events, or activities that will enhance the public use and enjoyment of and the public safety, public convenience, and public well-being within a service district. Such services, events, or activities shall not be undertaken for the sole or dominant benefit of any particular individual, business or other private entity.

2. To provide, in addition to services authorized by subdivision 1, transportation and transportation services within a service district, including, but not limited to: public transportation systems serving the district; transportation management services; road construction; rehabilitation and replacement of existing transportation facilities or systems; and sound walls or sound barriers. However, any transportation service, system, facility, roadway, or roadway appurtenance established under this subdivision that will be operated or maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation shall be established with the involvement of the governing body of the locality and meet the appropriate requirements of the Department. The proceeds from any annual tax or portion thereof collected for road construction pursuant to subdivision 6 may be accumulated and set aside for such reasonable period of time as is necessary to finance such construction; however, the governing body or bodies shall make available an annual disclosure statement, which shall contain the amount of any such proceeds accumulated and set aside to finance such road construction.

3. To acquire in accordance with § 15.2-1800, any such facilities and equipment and rights, title, interest or easements therefor in and to real estate in such district and maintain and operate the same as may be necessary and desirable to provide the governmental services authorized by subdivisions 1 and 2.

4. To contract with any person, municipality or state agency to provide the governmental services authorized by subdivisions 1 and 2 and to construct, establish, maintain, and operate any such facilities and equipment as may be necessary and desirable in connection therewith.

5. To require owners or tenants of any property in the district to connect with any such system or systems, and to contract with the owners or tenants for such connections. The owners or tenants shall have the right of appeal to the circuit court within 10 days from action by the governing body.

6. To levy and collect an annual tax upon any property in such service district subject to local taxation to pay, either in whole or in part, the expenses and charges for providing the governmental services authorized by subdivisions 1, 2 and 11 and for constructing, maintaining, and operating such facilities and equipment as may be necessary and desirable in connection therewith; however, such annual tax shall not be levied for or used to pay for schools, police, or general government services not authorized by this section, and the proceeds from such annual tax shall be so segregated as to enable the

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59 same to be expended in the district in which raised. In addition to the tax on property authorized herein,
60 in any city having a population of 350,000 or more and adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, the city council
61 shall have the power to impose a tax on the base transient room rentals, excluding hotels, motels, and
62 travel campgrounds, within such service district at a rate or percentage not higher than five percent
63 which is in addition to any other transient room rental tax imposed by the city. The proceeds from such
64 additional transient room rental tax shall be deposited in a special fund to be used only for the purpose
65 of beach and shoreline management and restoration. Any locality imposing a tax pursuant to this
66 subdivision may base the tax on the full assessed value of the taxable property within the service
67 district, notwithstanding any special use value assessment of property within the service district for land
68 preservation pursuant to Article 4 (§ 58.1-3229 et seq.) of Chapter 32 of Title 58.1, provided the owner
69 of such property has given written consent. In addition to the taxes and assessments described herein, a
70 locality creating a service district may contribute from its general fund any amount of funds it deems
71 appropriate to pay for the governmental services authorized by subdivisions 1, 2, and 11 of this section.

72 7. To accept the allocation, contribution or funds of, or to reimburse from, any available source,
73 including, but not limited to, any person, authority, transportation district, locality, or state or federal
74 agency for either the whole or any part of the costs, expenses and charges incident to the acquisition,
75 construction, reconstruction, maintenance, alteration, improvement, expansion, and the operation or
76 maintenance of any facilities and services in the district.

77 8. To employ and fix the compensation of any technical, clerical, or other force and help which from
78 time to time, in their judgment may be necessary or desirable to provide the governmental services
79 authorized by subdivisions 1, 2 and 11 or for the construction, operation, or maintenance of any such
80 facilities and equipment as may be necessary or desirable in connection therewith.

81 9. To create and terminate a development board or other body to which shall be granted and
82 assigned such powers and responsibilities with respect to a special service district as are delegated to it
83 by ordinance adopted by the governing body of such locality or localities. Any such board or alternative
84 body created shall be responsible for control and management of funds appropriated for its use by the
85 governing body or bodies, and such funds may be used to employ or contract with, on such terms and
86 conditions as the board or other body shall determine, persons, municipal or other governmental entities
87 or such other entities as the development board or alternative body deems necessary to accomplish the
88 purposes for which the development board or alternative body has been created. If the district was
89 created by court order, the ordinance creating the development board or alternative body may provide
90 that the members appointed to the board or alternative body shall consist of a majority of the
91 landowners who petitioned for the creation of the district, or their designees or nominees.

92 10. To negotiate and contract with any person or municipality with regard to the connections of any
93 such system or systems with any other system or systems now in operation or hereafter established, and
94 with regard to any other matter necessary and proper for the construction or operation and maintenance
95 of any such system within the district.

96 11. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, grant, or otherwise title to or any interests or rights
97 of not less than five years' duration in real property that will provide a means for the preservation or
98 provision of open-space land as provided for in the Open-Space Land Act (§ 10.1-1700 et seq.).
99 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 3, the governing body shall not use the power of
100 condemnation to acquire any interest in land for the purposes of this subdivision.

101 12. To contract with any state agency or state or local authority for services within the power of the
102 agency or authority related to the financing, construction, or operation of the facilities and services to be
103 provided within the district; however, nothing in this subdivision shall authorize a locality to obligate its
104 general tax revenues, or to pledge its full faith and credit.

105 13. In the Town of Front Royal, to construct, maintain, and operate facilities, equipment, and
106 programs as may be necessary or desirable to control, eradicate, and prevent the infestation of rats and
107 removal of skunks and the conditions that harbor them.

108 14. *To construct, repair, and maintain dams and related facilities.*