

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2088

House of Origin	<u>X</u>	Introduced	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u> </u>	In Committee	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Fralin

3. Committee: House Transportation

4. Title: Department of Rail and Public Transportation; grants to publicly owned railroads.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would provide that, prior to making any grant to any publicly held railroad, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) must consider right-of-way and public access issues as preconditions to making the grant. The bill further requires that DRPT promulgate regulations governing public comment and consideration when the making of any grant to a publicly held railroad is being considered by DRPT.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 450.

8. Fiscal Implications: DRPT currently considers right-of-way and public access issues as part of the grant application process.

Presently, grants are a component of the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) Six-Year Improvement Program. Prior to adoption of the program, the CTB holds public hearings around the Commonwealth and accepts public comments. Public comments are also accepted at CTB meetings. If DRPT was to hold separate public comment periods, the agency estimates it would incur costs of \$10,000 to promulgate public hearing guidelines and \$5,000 for each public hearing. The number of public hearings would depend on the grants awarded. Due to the nature of some grants, multiple public hearings may be required for a single grant application.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Rail and Public Transportation

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/26/2009 dpb/smc

Document: G:\GA\FIS 2009\HB2088.doc

cc: Secretary of Transportation