

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 15.2 a chapter numbered 65.1, consisting of
 3 sections numbered 15.2-6550 through 15.2-6554, relating to the Tourist Train Development
 4 Authority.

[S 819]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 15.2 a chapter numbered 65.1,**
 9 **consisting of sections numbered 15.2-6550 through 15.2-6554, as follows:**

10 CHAPTER 65.1.

11 TOURIST TRAIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

12 **§ 15.2-6550. Tourist Train Development Authority established.**

13 The Tourist Train Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as the "Authority," is created as a
 14 body politic and corporate, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth. As such it shall have, and is
 15 hereby vested with, the powers and duties hereinafter conferred in this chapter.

16 **§ 15.2-6551. Board of the Authority; qualifications; terms; quorum; records.**

17 All powers, rights, and duties conferred by this chapter, or by other provisions of law, upon the
 18 Authority shall be exercised by the Board of the Tourist Train Development Authority, hereinafter
 19 referred to as "the board." Initial appointments to the board shall begin July 1, 2013. The board shall
 20 consist of nine members as follows: seven members appointed by the Governor of whom three shall be
 21 representatives from the governing bodies of Tazewell County, the Town of Bluefield, and the Town of
 22 Pocahontas and four shall be nonlegislative citizen members who reside in Tazewell County; one
 23 member of the House of Delegates representing Tazewell County, who shall be appointed by the Speaker
 24 of the House of Delegates if more than one Delegate represents Tazewell County; and one member of
 25 the Senate representing Tazewell County, who shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules if
 26 more than one Senator represents Tazewell County. All members shall serve for a term of four years
 27 and may be reappointed for one additional term, except legislative members, who shall serve terms
 28 coincident with their terms of office and may be reappointed. The term of any member of the board
 29 shall immediately terminate if the member no longer meets the eligibility criteria of the initial
 30 appointment. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term. For the initial appointments only, three of
 31 the members shall be appointed for two-year terms and such initial terms shall not be counted toward
 32 the term limitation.

33 The board shall elect from its membership a chairman, a vice-chairman, and from its membership or
 34 not, as they desire, a secretary and a treasurer, or a secretary-treasurer, who shall continue to hold
 35 such office until their respective successors are elected. The members of the board shall receive no
 36 compensation. All members may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the
 37 performance of their duties from such funds as may be available to the Authority.

38 Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum of the board for the purposes of conducting its
 39 business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. No vacancy in the membership of the
 40 board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the
 41 board. The board shall keep detailed minutes of its proceedings, which shall be open to public
 42 inspection at all times. It shall keep suitable records of its financial transactions and, unless exempted
 43 by § 30-140, it shall arrange to have the records audited annually. Copies of each such audit shall be
 44 furnished to the governing bodies of Tazewell County and all adjacent counties and the Auditor of
 45 Public Accounts and shall be open to public inspection.

46 **§ 15.2-6552. Executive director; staff.**

47 The Authority shall appoint an executive director, who shall be authorized to employ such staff as
 48 necessary to enable the Authority to perform its duties as set forth in this chapter. The Authority is
 49 authorized to determine the duties of such staff and to fix salaries and compensation from such funds as
 50 may be received or appropriated.

51 **§ 15.2-6553. Powers of Authority.**

52 The Authority shall have the following powers together with all powers incidental thereto or
 53 necessary for the performance of those hereafter stated:

- 54 1. To sue and be sued and to prosecute and defend, at law or in equity, in any court having
- 55 jurisdiction of the subject matter and of the parties;
- 56 2. To adopt and use a corporate seal and to alter the same at its pleasure;

- 57 3. To contract and be contracted with;
58 4. To employ and pay compensation to such employees and agents, including attorneys, as the board
59 deems necessary in carrying on the business of the Authority;
60 5. To establish bylaws and make all rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of this
61 chapter, deemed expedient for the management of the Authority's affairs;
62 6. To borrow money and to accept contributions, grants, and other financial assistance from the
63 United States of America and agencies or instrumentalities thereof, the Commonwealth, or any political
64 subdivision, agency, or public instrumentality of the Commonwealth;
65 7. To issue bonds in accordance with applicable law;
66 8. To receive and expend moneys on behalf of tourist train development; and
67 9. To cooperate with any private or governmental entity in the state of West Virginia in the
68 development of a tourist train.
- 69 **§ 15.2-6554. Authority of localities.**
70 Localities are hereby authorized to lend or donate money or other property or services to the
71 Authority for any of its purposes. The locality making the grant or loan may restrict the use of such
72 grants or loans to a specific project, within or outside that locality.