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**SENATE BILL NO. 292**

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled January 6, 2014

*A BILL to establish the Downtown Tunnel Construction Relief Grant Fund.*

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Patron—Lucas

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Referred to Committee on Finance

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. § 1. Downtown Tunnel Construction Relief Grant Fund.**

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Downtown Tunnel Construction Relief Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. The fund shall consist of such moneys appropriated by the General Assembly, which shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purpose of providing grants of up to \$10,000 to any business that has suffered economic damage as a result of road closures due to the construction of the Downtown Tunnel Project. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by Executive Director (Director) of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority (the Authority).

§ 2. If the sum of the total amount of grants approved exceeds the total appropriation for payment of all grants under this act, then the amount of the grant that each business receives shall be prorated in a proportional manner.

§ 3. The Authority shall administer the Fund and develop guidelines setting forth the general requirements of qualifying for a grant. The development of the guidelines shall be exempt from the provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Applications for grants shall include documentation of the economic damage and such other relevant information as the Authority deems appropriate. The Authority shall review applications for grants and determine the amount of the grant to be awarded. Individual grants shall be limited to \$10,000.

§ 4. A business that has applied for a grant shall have no claim against the Commonwealth with respect to any grant authorized by this act. Actions of the Authority relating to the review, allocation, and awarding of grants shall be exempt from the provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) pursuant to subdivision B 4 of § 2.2-4002 of the Code of Virginia. Decisions of the Authority shall be final and not subject to review or appeal.

**2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2015.**

INTRODUCED

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