

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 33.2-1526.3 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it*  
3 *shall become effective, relating to Transit Ridership Incentive Program; funds; improving*  
4 *accessibility and safety.*

5 [S 1326]

6 Approved

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

8 **1. That § 33.2-1526.3, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of**  
9 **Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

10 **§ 33.2-1526.3. (Effective until July 1, 2024) Transit Ridership Incentive Program.**

11 A. The Board shall establish the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (the Program) to promote  
12 improved transit service in urbanized areas of the Commonwealth with a population in excess of  
13 100,000 and to reduce barriers to transit use for low-income individuals.

14 B. The goal of the Program shall be to encourage the identification and establishment of routes of  
15 regional significance, the development and implementation of a regional subsidy allocation model,  
16 implementation of integrated fare collection, establishment of bus-only lanes on routes of regional  
17 significance, and other actions and service determined by the Board to improve transit service.

18 C. The Board shall establish guidelines for the implementation of the Program and review such  
19 guidelines, at a minimum, every five years. The funds in the Program shall be awarded such that on a  
20 five-year rolling average, the amount of funds awarded to each urbanized area shall be equal to a ratio  
21 of the population within the Commonwealth of such urbanized area compared to the total population  
22 within the Commonwealth of all eligible urbanized areas. The Board may through an affirmative vote of  
23 a majority of the members vote to waive this requirement for a period not to exceed two years when  
24 they find there is a need that justifies such waiver.

25 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Board shall use at least 25 percent of the funds  
26 available to support the establishment of programs to reduce the impact of fares on low-income  
27 individuals, including reduced-fare programs and elimination of fares. The restrictions in subsection A  
28 shall not apply to funds used pursuant to this subsection, nor shall the funds used pursuant to this  
29 subsection be used to calculate the rolling average described in subsection C.

30 E. The Board shall use at least 25 percent of the funds available to support regional transit  
31 initiatives. The Board shall use its discretion in allocating the remaining funds available as authorized  
32 pursuant to this section and based on the programs and initiatives submitted during the application  
33 process.

34 F. *Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Board shall use an amount not to exceed 30*  
35 *percent of the funds available to support local, regional, and state entities in improving the accessibility*  
36 *of transit bus passenger facilities and improving crime prevention and public safety for transit*  
37 *passengers, operators, and employees. The Board shall develop guidelines for applications, including*  
38 *relevant criteria and any requirement for matching funds, including any private grants and donations,*  
39 *for grants to any local, regional, or state public entity that supports a transit system. The restrictions in*  
40 *subsection A shall not apply to funds used pursuant to this subsection, nor shall the funds used pursuant*  
41 *to this subsection be used to calculate the rolling average described in subsection C.*

42 ~~F.~~ G. The Board shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the projects and  
43 services funded by the Program. The report shall, at a minimum, include an analysis of the performance  
44 of the funded projects, the performance of the identified routes of regional significance, transit ridership,  
45 efforts funded pursuant to subsection D, and any other information the Board determines to be  
46 appropriate.

47 **§ 33.2-1526.3. (Effective July 1, 2024) Transit Ridership Incentive Program.**

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