

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA -- 1997 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 495

Memorializing Congress to reauthorize the federal surface transportation program by replacing outdated formulas with factors reflecting use, such as those identified in STEP 21; providing better equity in the distribution of highway funds to states; and authorizing funding for multi-modal transit services and highways.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 20, 1997

Agreed to by the Senate, February 19, 1997

WHEREAS, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 expires September 30, 1997; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Highway Administration's publication *Federal Highway Statistics*, Virginia consistently receives a lower percentage of federal highway funding than its percentage share of payments into the Highway Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the proposed reauthorization of federal aid for surface transportation programs provides an ideal opportunity to ensure that future methods of apportioning federal transportation funds are equitable and fair; and

WHEREAS, adequate support for the National Highway System (NHS) is necessary to provide consistent mobility and economic benefits for all states and the nation, and to ensure that Virginia's citizens are able to connect with citizens throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, a streamlined transportation program is needed to provide flexible funding to allow states and their local partners to respond to specific state and local needs; and

WHEREAS, it is in the national interest to ensure an adequate level of resources for highways in states with small populations and large land areas, as well as states with small populations and small land areas; to provide road systems necessary to facilitate the mobility of citizens across the country and economic development; and to meet the transportation needs of transit-dependent citizens; and

WHEREAS, multi-modal transportation systems are needed to link the nation's highway systems to the public transit systems; and

WHEREAS, a strong transit program contributes to national benchmarks for improved air quality by reducing pollution as defined by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Integrity Restoration Act, which embodies the principles advanced by the Surface Transportation Efficiency Program (STEP 21) Coalition, has been introduced in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That Congress be urged to reauthorize the federal surface transportation program by replacing outdated formulas with factors reflecting use, such as those identified in STEP 21; providing better equity in the distribution of highway funds to states; and authorizing funding for multi-modal transit services and highways; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Congressional Delegation of Virginia in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

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