

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact §§ 33.2-1526.3 and 33.2-3102 of the Code of Virginia and to amend and*  
 3 *reenact the second enactment of Chapter 806 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, relating to certain transit*  
 4 *entities; funding and administration.*

5 [H 200]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That §§ 33.2-1526.3 and 33.2-3102 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**9 **§ 33.2-1526.3. Transit Ridership Incentive Program.**

10 A. The Board shall establish the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (the Program) to promote improved  
 11 transit service in urbanized areas of across the Commonwealth with a population in excess of 100,000 and to  
 12 reduce barriers to transit use for low-income individuals by encouraging the identification and establishment  
 13 of routes of regional significance; supporting the establishment of programs to reduce the impact of fares on  
 14 low-income individuals; encouraging innovative approaches to micromobility, paratransit, and other  
 15 specialized transportation; and supporting local, regional, and state entities in improving the accessibility  
 16 and safety of transit bus passenger facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

44 ~~G.~~ C. The Board shall report annually by November 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly on the  
 45 projects and services funded by the Program. The report shall, at a minimum, include an analysis of the  
 46 performance of the funded projects, the performance of the identified routes of regional significance, transit  
 47 ridership, efforts funded pursuant to subsection ~~D~~ the Program, and any other information the Board  
 48 determines to be appropriate.

49 **§ 33.2-3102. Virginia-specific requirements.**

50 ~~A.~~ Members of the Board of Directors of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission for the  
 51 Commonwealth of Virginia shall be appointed by the Governor of Virginia and subject to confirmation by the  
 52 General Assembly.

53 B. The Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the Northern Virginia Transportation  
 54 Commission, shall engage his counterparts in Maryland and Washington, D.C., and the appropriate officials  
 55 in the federal government for the purpose of revising the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
 56 Compact of 1966 and implementing other reforms necessary to ensure the near-term and long-term viability

57 of the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA). In doing so, the Secretary shall develop,  
58 propose, and seek agreement on reforms related to the following: (i) the legal and organizational structure of  
59 WMATA; (ii) the composition and qualifications of the WMATA Board of Directors and the length of terms  
60 of its members; (iii) labor costs and labor relations; (iv) measures necessary to resolve WMATA's unfunded  
61 pension liability and other postemployment benefits; (v) measures necessary to better ensure the safety of  
62 riders and employees, including safety in the event of a homeland security emergency in the national capital  
63 area; and (vi) financial and operational improvements necessary to ensure that WMATA's performance is at  
64 least as efficient as its closest comparable transit systems in the United States. The Secretary shall report to  
65 and consult quarterly beginning June 30, 2017, with the Chairmen of the House and Senate Transportation  
66 Committees regarding activity taken in accordance with this subsection.

67 **2. That the second enactment of Chapter 806 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024 is amended and reenacted**  
68 **as follows:**

69 **2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, ~~2027~~ 2028.**