

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 33.2-1526.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Transit Ridership*
3 *Incentive Program.*

4
5 Approved

[S 342]

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

7 **1. That § 33.2-1526.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 **§ 33.2-1526.3. Transit Ridership Incentive Program.**

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

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

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

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

28 E. The Board shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the projects and
29 services funded by the Program. The report shall, at a minimum, include an analysis of the performance
30 of the funded projects, the performance of the identified routes of regional significance, transit ridership,
31 efforts funded pursuant to subsection E, and any other information the Board determines to be
32 appropriate.

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