2018 Virginia Legislative Session Bills of Relevance to VRE

  
  A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 33.2-365.1, relating to allocation of funds for certain contract fees for railroad right-of-way access.

  **SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**
  Allocation of funds for certain contract fees for railroad right-of-way access. Provides that funds for contract fees paid by the Virginia Railway Express for access to the rights-of-way of CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern Corporation, and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation shall be allocated yearly by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and shall cover 84 percent of the total costs.

  
  A BILL to amend and reenact § 33.2-1604 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 16 of Title 33.2 a section numbered § 33.2-1605, relating to Commuter Rail Operating and Capital Fund.

  **SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**
  Commuter Rail Operating and Capital Fund. Establishes the Commuter Rail Operating and Capital Fund to be used by the Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, with the approval of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, on projects that expand and improve commuter rail service.

  
  A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 33.2-1527, 58.1-2292, and 58.1-2295, as it is currently effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to transportation funding in certain regions of the Commonwealth.

  **SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**
  Transportation funding in certain areas of the Commonwealth; price floor. Establishes a floor on the 2.1 percent sales tax imposed on motor vehicle fuels sold in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. The average wholesale price of gasoline, as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, on July 1, 2018, shall be the initial floor. If the average wholesale price rises in future determinations, the new higher average will become the floor, until such time as the average wholesale price of gasoline is determined to be equal to or greater than the average wholesale price of gasoline in the Commonwealth on February 20, 2013, which is the date of the floor used for the calculation of the state gasoline tax. After this threshold is met, the average wholesale price used for the calculation of the regional tax will be the same as the average price used to calculate the state tax. The also allocates $40 million annually from the Priority...
Transportation Fund, after making any required debt service payments, to each of the Salem highway construction district and the Bristol highway construction district. Of the $40 million allocated to the Bristol highway construction district, $30 million each year shall be designated for the construction and completion of U.S. Route 121, the Coalfields Expressway.

  A **BILL** to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-2292, 58.1-2295, as it is currently effective, and 58.1-2299.20, as it is currently effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to the motor vehicle fuels sales tax in certain transportation districts.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**
Motor vehicle fuels sales tax in certain transportation districts. Provides that the tax that is imposed on the sales price of motor fuel in Northern Virginia shall be imposed on the regional price of gas, defined and computed as a six-month average price of fuel. The tax shall not be imposed on a regional price that is less that a gallon of gasoline on February 20, 2013, nor shall it be imposed a price that is more than $4 per gallon. The bill also raises the rate of taxation of motor fuel in Northern Virginia from 2.1% to 3%.

The bill also changes the regional gas tax in Hampton Roads from a percentage to a cents-per-gallon tax that increases as the price of gas increases. The regional gas tax in Hampton Roads would have a floor of $0.05 per gallon and a ceiling of $0.14 per gallon and would be determined on the basis of the average wholesale price of unleaded regular gasoline.

- **HOUSE BILL NO. 34** [https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+ful+HB34](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+ful+HB34)
  A **BILL** to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-419.3, relating to railroads; freight train crew requirements; civil penalty.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**
Railroads; crew size. Requires a train or light engine used in connection with the movement of railroad freight in the Commonwealth that shares the same rail corridor as a high-speed passenger or commuter train to operate with a crew of at least two individuals. Localities are prohibited from adopting an ordinance, order, or resolution in conflict with this requirement. The State Corporation Commission shall have discretion to fine a person willfully violating this requirement an amount not to exceed $500 for a first offense and an amount not to exceed $1,000 for a second offense or a subsequent offense. The measure has a sunset clause that provides that it will expire on the fifth day following the date that the Federal Railroad Administration issues a rule requiring two-person train crews on
crude oil trains and establishing minimum crew size standards for most main line freight and passenger rail operations. The measure has a delayed effective date of October 1, 2018.


A BILL to direct the Department of Transportation to commence a transportation project to add additional lanes on Interstate 95.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

Additional lanes of Interstate 95. Directs the Department of Transportation to immediately commence a transportation project to add an additional lane of travel to that portion of Interstate 95 between Exit 126 in Spotsylvania County and Interstate 495 in both the north-bound and south-bound directions.


A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-57 of the Code of Virginia, relating to battery; public transportation operators; penalty.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

Battery; public transportation operators; penalty. Provides that the punishment for battery of a person who is the operator of a vehicle operated by a public transportation service who is engaged in the performance of his duties is a Class 6 felony.


A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 33.2-214.3, relating to transportation project selection in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia); public meeting.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

Transportation project selection in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia); public meeting. Requires the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the Commonwealth Transportation Board to annually conduct a joint public meeting for the purposes of presenting to the public, and receiving public comments on, the transportation projects proposed by each entity in Planning District 8.
• **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 58** [https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+ful+HJ58](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+ful+HJ58) Requesting the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to identify and recommend potential public transportation services from the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station to Marine Corps Base Quantico in Prince William and Stafford Counties and to study the feasibility of extending the Blue Line and other multimodal options such as bus rapid transit along Interstate 95 and U.S. Route 1. Report.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**
Study; Department of Rail and Public Transportation; improved transportation services; report. Requests that the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (the Department) identify and recommend potential public transportation services from the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station to Marine Corps Base Quantico in Prince William and Stafford Counties and study the feasibility of extending the Blue Line and other multimodal options such as bus rapid transit along Interstate 95 and U.S. Route 1. The Department shall report on its findings and recommendations on the first day of the 2019 and 2020 Regular Sessions of the General Assembly.


**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**
Study; Department of Transportation; commuter rail system in the Commonwealth; report. Requests the Department of Transportation to study and develop best practices for constructing, operating, and maintaining a commuter rail system in the Commonwealth.


**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**
Commonwealth Transportation Board; factors for project selection. Requires travel time reliability to be one of the factors used by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in its statewide prioritization process for project selection.