2025 General Assembly Update

Rail and Transit Bills and Budget Amendments of Interest



DRPT
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

DRPT-Related Bills of Interest

Bill Number/Patron	Description
HB 1603 (Del. Runion) SB 1144 (Sen. Obenshain)	**Commonwealth Rail Fund; Rail Preservation Fund—Signed by Governor.** Changes the amount of funding that DRPT may transfer from the CRF to the Rail Preservation (Shortline) Fund from a $4M cap to up to 50 percent of DRPT's share of the CRF.
HB 1682 (Del. Cohen) SB 1269 (Sen. Pekarsky)	**Surplus Lines Broker, person not subject to annual taxes, etc—Signed by Governor.** Exempts providers of surplus lines insurance to the Virginia Railway Express from certain taxes, thus not passing the cost of those taxes to VRE. *Note: Similar legislation was introduced last year but failed in committee.*
SB 1317 (Sen. McPike)	**Transportation district commissions; contracts or agreements—Signed by Governor.** Expands the authority of Transportation District Commissions to enter into contracts or agreements with nearby localities, TDCs or Planning District Commissions.

Budget amendments of note

Note: at time of writing, the amended budget has not been signed and is pending.

Item Number	Description
433 #1c	Changes the State General Fund support for WMATA. Instead of $60.2M in FY 2025 and $84.5M in FY 2026, as was included in the adopted biennial budget, Chapter 1, this budget amendment combines total General Fund support into FY 2025 only, and reduces the total by ~$7.8M. This reduction reflects the updated Virginia share of WMATA support.
433 #2c	Provides a one-time $200,000 general fund investment in Hampton Roads Transit.
441 #1c (VDOT)	Directs VDOT and DRPT to work with toll operators to mitigate the charging of tolls for public transit buses.