HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Systems Subcommittee

Thursday, January 14, 2021, 7:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

THE HONORABLE BETSY B. CARR, CHAIR

**Bills that are voted upon favorably will be taken up by the full committee**

**immediately following this subcommittee**

**H.B. 1813**
**Patron: Krizek**

**Highway construction by state or local employees; limit.** Increases from $600,000 to $800,000 the value of highway maintenance and construction projects eligible to be performed by state or local employees.

**H.B. 1832**
**Patron: Subramanyam**

**Virginia Highway Corporation Act; alteration of certificate of authority; powers and duties of the State Corporation Commission.** Requires any application for a transfer, extension, or amendment of a certificate of authority issued under the Virginia Highway Corporation Act to include information demonstrating the financial fitness of the entity applying to operate the roadway. The bill requires an applicant for a toll increase to provide a forward-looking analysis return that will be reviewed by the Department of Transportation that demonstrates that the proposed rates will be reasonable to the user in relation to the benefit obtained, not likely to materially discourage use of the roadway, and provide the operator no more than a reasonable return. The bill also prohibits the State Corporation Commission from authorizing a toll increase if these criteria are not met or if the proposed increase is for more than one year. The bill requires an operator to receive approval from the Commission prior to refinancing any existing debt.

**H.B. 1850**
**Patron: Reid**

**Motor vehicle weight limits; vehicles powered primarily by electric battery power or fueled primarily by natural gas.** Authorizes motor vehicles powered primarily by means of electric battery power to exceed relevant weight limits by 2,000 pounds, provided that such weight does not exceed 82,000 pounds on an interstate highway. The bill also changes the weight exemption for motor vehicles fueled primarily by natural gas on an interstate highway from the difference between the weight of the natural gas tank and fueling system and a comparable diesel tank and fueling system to up to an additional 2,000 pounds, provided that such weight does not exceed 82,000 pounds.

**H.B. 1893**
**Patron: Hurst**

**New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority; creation.** Authorizes the creation of a regional passenger rail station authority in Planning District 4 to assist in the creation and maintenance of passenger rail in the region. The authority would be authorized to enter into revenue sharing agreements and to issue revenue bonds. The authority would be governed by a board consisting of members of each participating locality and institution of higher education.

**H.B. 1903**
**Patron: Carr**

**Local government authority; reduction of speed limits.** Authorizes local governing bodies to reduce the speed limit to less than 25 miles per hour, but not less than 15 miles per hour, in a business district or residence district.

**H.B. 1910**
**Patron: Cole, J.G.**

**Creation of regional transportation authorities.** Authorizes two or more adjacent counties or cities to form a regional transportation authority to engage in regional transportation projects. The bill sets forth the procedures for forming such authority and determining the membership of its governing board. Ordinances adopted by each member of such authority would set forth the local taxes, fees, and revenues to be contributed by each locality to such authority.