



## Better Bus Stop Bill

HB 285 | Del. McQuinn, Del. Clark, and Del. Martienz  
TBD | Sen. Bagby and Sen. Stanley

**What:** Amends § 36-98.1. State buildings; exception for certain assets owned by the Department of Transportation.

*E. Plans and specifications for bus shelters that do not exceed 256 square feet to be constructed for transit agencies receiving state funds from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund, pursuant to § 33.2-1526.1, and that will be constructed on state-owned property shall be reviewed by the local building official of the locality in which the state-owned property is located, in lieu of the Department of General Services' review, within 60 days of the applicant's initial submission of such plans and specifications.*

### **Why:**

The 2020 Transportation Omnibus Bill created the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) which was an innovative approach to help fill the transit funding void for needs that didn't fit neatly in either the operation or capital funding streams. Originally, this program was focused on supporting Regional routes (25%+) which crossed jurisdictional boundaries, or agencies that wanted to implement reduced or zero-fare programs (25%+). In 2023, TRIP was expanded to include up-to 30% funding dedicated to improving the accessibility and safety of our bus transit system's bus stops and last-foot infrastructure.

During the implementation of the bus stop improvement and safety program, several bureaucratic issues arose between the VA Dept. of General Services, the VA Dept. of Transportation, and the VA Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation that significantly delayed or slowed the progress on improving Virginia's bus stops.

This code fix helps to streamline the bus stop improvement process and eliminate unnecessary delays.

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