

SUPPORT SB 282 – Sen Dancia Roem (D)

Topic: Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program; use of surplus funds for Program.

Bill Patrons: Senator Roem

Reasons to support:

- 10% of the surplus funds generated from the state's general fund revenues go into a Highway Safety Improvement Program.
- All funds appropriated pursuant to this bill shall be used solely for the purposes of funding projects that would address a hazardous road location or feature or other identified highway safety problem and improve transportation safety at a specific location.

What the bill does:

Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program; surplus funds. Provides that beginning in fiscal year 2025, in any fiscal year in which there is a surplus of general fund revenues, as that term is defined in the bill, the Governor shall include in his proposed budget an appropriation of 10 percent of such surplus for the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program for the purpose of funding projects consistent with the objectives of the Program.

The surplus funds will be managed by an appointed Board who shall adopt an investment strategy to guide the investments of the Program. The strategy shall cover a period of at least five years and seek to achieve a significant reduction in the anticipated number of fatalities and severe injuries over the covered period and shall give priority to projects, strategies, and activities based on the expected reduction in fatalities and severe injuries relative to cost, including improvements that are widely implemented based on a high-risk roadway feature that is correlated with a particular crash type, rather than crash frequency.

Why this matters:

- Establishes a means by which 10% of surplus funds would be directed to Virginia's Highway Safety Improvement Program to improve road safety as opposed to going into the State general budget expenditures.



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