

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 658

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study Tennessee's long-term transportation infrastructure needs and funding.

WHEREAS, Tennessee prides itself on fiscal responsibility, including funding transportation infrastructure projects as we go and operating and maintaining our transportation system debt free; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's model for funding transportation infrastructure projects has remained mostly unchanged since 1923; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee continues to primarily fund its transportation infrastructure projects with revenues generated by gas and diesel taxes and user fees; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee will continue to experience a decline in these revenues as a result of multiple factors including, but not limited to, improved fuel efficiency, greater utilization of more readily available mass transit options, increased suburban/urban density, and advancements in technology; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, it is necessary for the legislature to take proactive and affirmative steps to continue its reputation for fiscal responsibility by modernizing funding models; and

WHEREAS, to continue to operate and maintain Tennessee's existing transportation system and build a forward-thinking 21st century transportation infrastructure system, it is imperative for the state to immediately evaluate and consider new ways to utilize existing sources of revenue and identify potential new sources of revenue to modernize our state's century-old transportation funding model; and

WHEREAS, such legislative action is necessary to continue our economic prosperity, ensure the public welfare, improve Tennesseans quality of life, and build for our future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the long-term transportation infrastructure needs of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall study the various sources of federal and state revenue used to fund Tennessee's transportation infrastructure system, investigate ways and means to best utilize existing sources of revenue, and identify potential new sources of revenue for the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of twenty-one (21) members as follows:

(1) Four (4) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, of which two (2) shall be from the minority party and two (2) shall be from the majority party;

(2) Four (4) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate, of which two (2) shall be from the minority party and two (2) shall be from the majority party;

(3) The Chair of the House Transportation Committee;

(4) The Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee;

(5) One (1) member who would represent the elected and appointed chief administrative officers of the county highway departments, to be selected by the board of directors of the Tennessee Highway Officials Association;

(6) One (1) member who would represent the transportation construction industry, to be selected by the Tennessee Road Builders Association;

(7) One (1) member who would represent Tennessee municipalities, to be selected by the Tennessee Municipal League;

(8) One (1) member who would represent Tennessee public transportation, to be selected by the Tennessee Public Transportation Association;

(9) One (1) member who would represent Class I railroads, to be selected by the board of directors of the Tennessee Railroad Association;

(10) One (1) member who would represent the barge industry, to be selected by the Waterways Council, Inc.;

(11) One (1) member who would represent the trucking industry, to be selected by the Tennessee Truckers Association;

(12) One (1) member who would represent the Tennessee engineering industry, to be selected by the American Council of Engineering Companies;

(13) One (1) member who would represent highway users, to be selected by the American Highway Users Alliance;

(14) One (1) member who would represent the Tennessee aeronautics industry, to be selected by the Tennessee Aviation Association; and

(15) One (1) member who would represent the commercial airport industry, to be selected by the Tennessee Association of Air Carrier Airports.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair. The National Conference of State Legislatures is also requested to provide assistance to the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that legislative and non-legislative members of the special joint committee shall serve without compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly and at its first meeting shall elect from among its legislative membership a chair, vice chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Twelfth General Assembly no later than February 15, 2021, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.