

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 165

Government Performance Audit Select Committee Substitute Adopted 3/31/93

Short Title: GPAC/Transportation Financing Study.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 16, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT A RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. The General Assembly finds that there is a highway maintenance backlog and that added funding may be necessary to meet future highway maintenance needs and other obligations associated with the Highway Trust Fund program. General Fund transfers, interagency transfers, and program allocations of highway fund revenues increasingly dilute the revenues available for needed roadway capital improvement, maintenance, and operations. With the passage of landmark federal surface transportation funding legislation by Congress in 1991 (The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 - ISTEA), the level and allocation of federal transportation funding has significantly changed. The changes in national and State administrations are likely to generate further changes to the funding and program priorities for transportation at the federal and State level.

Sec. 2. The Joint Legislative Highway Oversight Committee shall study comprehensive transportation funding, including:

- (1) All modes of transportation receiving State funding;
- (2) Short-term and long-term program needs and life-cycle costs;
- (3) Currently available and alternative funding sources; and

1 (4) Possible legislation needed to ensure that designated revenue sources
2 are properly used to support program priorities in a comprehensive and
3 equitable fashion.

4 Sec. 3. The Joint Legislative Highway Oversight Committee shall report the
5 results of the study mandated by Section 2 of this act to the General Assembly prior to
6 the first day of the 1994 Session of the General Assembly.

7 Sec. 4. G.S. 120-70.51(a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a) The Joint Legislative Highway Oversight Committee shall:

- 9 (1) Review reports prepared by the Department of Transportation under
10 G.S. 136-184.
- 11 (2) Monitor the funds deposited in and expenditures from the North
12 Carolina Highway Trust Fund and the Highway Fund.
- 13 (3) Determine whether funds in the Trust Fund are spent in accordance
14 with G.S. 136-17.2A and Article 14 of Chapter 136.
- 15 (4) Determine whether any revisions are needed in the funding for a
16 program for which funds in the Trust Fund may be used, including
17 revisions needed to meet any statutory timetable for the program.
- 18 (5) Report to the General Assembly at the beginning of each regular
19 session concerning its determinations of needed changes in the funding
20 for programs funded from the Trust Fund.
- 21 (6) Report periodically, when changing fiscal conditions and highway
22 priorities require, and at least every five years, on a reassessment of
23 the justification for and the financial feasibility of construction projects
24 funded from the Highway Trust Fund."

25 Sec. 5. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall submit a report to the
26 General Assembly, not later than November 1, 1993, containing proposals for
27 enhancing the efficiency of the motor vehicle registration process. The report shall
28 contain consideration of:

- 29 (1) Encouraging vehicle owners to mail in their vehicle registration
30 materials, thereby reducing the need for 126 registration offices.
- 31 (2) Purchasing a computer system that will accommodate direct
32 transmission of registration information by contractors and branch
33 offices to a central system at least on a daily basis.
- 34 (3) Accommodating possible future applications such as direct customer
35 telephone input through automated teller machines and using credit
36 cards.

37 Sec. 6. The General Assembly finds that the Department of Transportation
38 should expand efforts to turn over operations-related functions, such as signal
39 maintenance, signal system operation, sign maintenance, and pavement marking
40 maintenance, to local urbanized communities through municipal agreements. The effect
41 of these agreements will be to place operational responsibility closer to the group most
42 impacted by the function while potentially relieving the Department of Transportation
43 of part of the associated costs.

1 Sec. 7. The Department of Transportation shall report to the General
2 Assembly, on or before December 1, 1993, a plan to increase the use of municipal
3 agreements to turn over operations-related functions to local urbanized communities.

4 Sec. 8. Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this act become effective July 1, 1993.
5 Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this act become effective upon ratification. The first report
6 required by Section 4 of this act shall be filed prior to the first day of the 1994 Session
7 of the General Assembly.