

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE DRH10203-ML-176 (03/13)

Short Title: Regional Transportation Authority Revisions. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Faircloth.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ADJUST THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
3 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES, TO PROVIDE THAT ALL
4 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL BE VOTING MEMBERS, TO
5 AUTHORIZE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES TO HIRE A CHIEF
6 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AND TO CLARIFY THE VOTING PROCESS BY
7 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
8 AUTHORITIES.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 SECTION 1. G.S. 160A-635 reads as rewritten:

11 "§ 160A-635. **Membership; officers; compensation.**

12 (a) The governing body of an authority is the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees
13 shall consist of:

14 ...

15 (2) ~~Two~~At least two, but not more than three, members of the Board of
16 Transportation appointed by the Secretary of Transportation, to serve as ex
17 officio nonvoting members. Transportation. Members appointed under this
18 subdivision shall be (i) division members from a highway division or
19 highway divisions located wholly or partially within the territorial
20 jurisdiction of the Authority, (ii) at-large members who represent or have an
21 expertise in mass transit and reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the
22 Authority, or (iii) a combination of division members and at-large members
23 meeting the requirements set forth in this subdivision.

24 ...

25 (c) Service on the Board of Trustees may be in addition to any other office which a
26 person is entitled to hold. Each ~~voting~~member of the Board of Trustees may hold elective
27 public office as defined by G.S. 128-1.1(d).

28 ...

29 (e) The Board of Trustees shall annually elect from its membership a Chairperson, and
30 a Vice-Chairperson, ~~and shall annually elect~~a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

31"

32 SECTION 2. G.S. 160A-636 reads as rewritten:

33 "§ 160A-636. ~~Voting.~~**Voting; action by the Board of Trustees.**

34 (a) Quorum. - A majority of the ~~members~~membership of the Board of
35 ~~Trustees~~Trustees, excluding vacant seats, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
36 business. ~~Except as provided by G.S. 160A-635(a)(2), each member shall have one~~



1 ~~vote-quorum.~~ A member who has withdrawn from a meeting without being excused by
2 majority vote of the remaining members present shall be counted as present for purposes of
3 determining whether or not a quorum is present. No member shall be excused from voting
4 except upon matters involving the consideration of the member's own financial interest or
5 official conduct or on matters on which the member is prohibited from voting under any other
6 provision of law.

7 (b) Action. – An affirmative vote equal to a majority of all the members of the Board of
8 Trustees not excused from voting on the question in issue shall be required to authorize or
9 commit the expenditure of public funds, or make, ratify, or authorize any contract on behalf of
10 the Authority.

11 (c) Tie Vote. – In the event of a tie vote of the members of the Board of Trustees, the
12 chairperson shall cast the deciding vote."

13 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 160A-639 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 160A-639. General powers of the Authority.**

15 The general powers of the Authority shall include any or all of the following:

- 16 (1) To sue and be ~~sued;~~sued.
17 (2) To have a ~~seal;~~seal.
18 (3) To make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Chapter, for its
19 organization and internal ~~management;~~management.
20 (4) To employ ~~persons deemed necessary~~a chief administrative officer to carry
21 out the functions and duties ~~assigned to them by~~of the Authority ~~and~~
22 ~~to~~Authority. The Board of Trustees shall ~~fix their compensation;~~the
23 compensation of the chief administrative officer and any employees hired by
24 the chief administrative officer pursuant to G.S. 160A-639.1, within the limit
25 of available funds;funds.
26 (5) With the approval of the unit of local government's chief administrative
27 official, to use officers, employees, agents, and facilities of the unit of local
28 government for such purposes and upon such terms as may be mutually
29 ~~agreeable;~~agreeable.
30 (6) To retain and employ counsel, auditors, engineers, and private consultants
31 on an annual salary, contract basis, or otherwise for rendering professional
32 or technical services and ~~advice;~~advice.
33 (7) To acquire, lease as lessee with or without option to purchase, hold, own,
34 and use any franchise, property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, or
35 any interest therein, and to sell, lease as lessor with or without option to
36 purchase, transfer (or dispose thereof) whenever the same is no longer
37 required for purposes of the Authority, or exchange same for other property
38 or rights which are useful for the Authority's purposes, including but not
39 necessarily limited to parking ~~facilities;~~facilities.
40 (8) To acquire by gift, purchase, lease as lessee with or without option to
41 purchase or otherwise to construct, improve, maintain, repair, operate, or
42 administer any component parts of a public transportation system or to
43 contract for the maintenance, operation or administration thereof, or to lease
44 as lessor the same for maintenance, operation, or administration by private
45 parties, including, but not necessarily limited to, parking ~~facilities;~~facilities.
46 (9) To make or enter into contracts, agreements, deeds, leases with or without
47 option to purchase, conveyances or other instruments, including contracts
48 and agreements with the United States, the State of North Carolina, and units
49 of local ~~government;~~government.
50 (9a) To purchase or finance real or personal property in the manner provided for
51 cities and counties under ~~G.S. 160A-20;~~G.S. 160A-20.

- 1 (10) To surrender to the State of North Carolina any property no longer required
2 by the ~~Authority;~~Authority.
- 3 (11) To develop and make data, plans, information, surveys and studies of public
4 transportation facilities within the territorial jurisdiction of the Authority and
5 to prepare and make recommendations in regard ~~thereto;~~thereto.
- 6 (12) To enter in a reasonable manner lands, waters, or premises for the purpose of
7 making surveys, soundings, drillings, and examinations whereby such entry
8 shall not be deemed a trespass except that the Authority shall be liable for
9 any actual and consequential damages resulting from such ~~entries;~~entries.
- 10 (13) To develop and carry out demonstration ~~projects;~~projects.
- 11 (14) To make, enter into, and perform contracts with private parties, and public
12 transportation companies with respect to the management and operation of
13 public passenger ~~transportation;~~transportation.
- 14 (15) To make, enter into, and perform contracts with any public utility, railroad
15 or transportation company for the joint use of property or rights, for the
16 establishment of through routes, joint fares, or transfer of
17 ~~passengers;~~passengers.
- 18 (16) To make, enter into, and perform agreements with governmental entities for
19 payments to the Authority for the transportation of persons for whom the
20 governmental entities desire ~~transportation;~~transportation.
- 21 (17) With the consent of the unit of local government which would otherwise
22 have jurisdiction to exercise the powers enumerated in this subdivision: to
23 issue certificates of public convenience and necessity; and to grant
24 franchises and enter into franchise agreements, and in all respects to regulate
25 the operation of buses, taxicabs, and other methods of public passenger
26 transportation which originate and terminate within the territorial jurisdiction
27 of the Authority as fully as the unit of local government is now or hereafter
28 empowered to do within the territorial jurisdiction of the unit of local
29 ~~government;~~government.
- 30 (18) To operate public transportation systems and to enter into and perform
31 contracts to operate public transportation services and facilities, and to own
32 or lease property, facilities and equipment necessary or convenient therefor,
33 and to rent, lease or otherwise sell the right to do so to any person, public or
34 private; further, to obtain grants, loans, and assistance from the United
35 States, the State of North Carolina, any public body, or any private source
36 whatsoever, but may not operate or contract for the operation of public
37 transportation systems outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Authority
38 except as provided by subdivision (20) of this ~~section;~~section.
- 39 (19) To enter into and perform contracts and agreements with other public
40 transportation authorities, regional public transportation authorities, or units
41 of local government pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 160A-460 through
42 G.S. 160A-464 (Part 1 of Article 20 of Chapter 160A of the General
43 Statutes); further to enter into contracts and agreements with private
44 transportation companies, but this subdivision does not authorize the
45 operation of, or contracting for the operation of, service of a public
46 transportation system outside the service area of the ~~Authority;~~Authority.
- 47 (20) To operate public transportation systems extending service into any political
48 subdivision of the State of North Carolina unless a particular unit of local
49 government operating its own public transportation system or franchising the
50 operation of a public transportation system by majority vote of its governing
51 board, shall deny consent, but such service may not extend more than 10

1 miles outside of the territorial jurisdiction of the authority, except that
2 vanpool and carpool service shall not be subject to that mileage
3 ~~limitation;limitation.~~

4 (21) Except as restricted by covenants in bonds, notes, or equipment trust
5 certificates, to set in its sole discretion rates, fees, and charges for use of its
6 public transportation ~~system;system.~~

7 (22) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out its purpose and to
8 exercise the powers granted to the ~~Authority;Authority.~~

9 (23) To facilitate the coordination of transportation plans in the service area and
10 the activities of the member Metropolitan Planning
11 ~~Organizations;Organizations.~~

12 (24) To maintain databases for the projection of future travel demands in the
13 ~~region;region.~~

14 (25) To provide and operate regional ridesharing and vanpool
15 ~~operations;operations.~~

16 (26) To provide and operate regional transportation services for the elderly and
17 ~~handicapped;handicapped.~~

18 (27) To provide other transportation related services, including air quality
19 monitoring and analysis, as determined by the Board of ~~Trustees;Trustees.~~

20 (28) To issue bonds or other obligations of the Authority as provided by law and
21 apply the proceeds thereof to the financing of any public transportation
22 system or any part thereof and to refund, whether or not in advance of
23 maturity or the earliest redemption date, any such bonds or other ~~obligations;~~
24 ~~andobligations.~~

25 (29) To contract for, or to provide and maintain, with respect to the facilities and
26 property owned, leased with or without option to purchase, operated or
27 under the control of the Authority, and within the territory thereof, a security
28 force to protect persons and property, dispense unlawful or dangerous
29 assemblages and assemblages which obstruct full and free passage, control
30 pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and otherwise preserve and protect the
31 public peace, health, and safety; for these purposes a member of such force
32 shall be a peace officer and, as such, shall have authority equivalent to the
33 authority of a police officer of the city or county in which said member of
34 such force is discharging such duties."

35 **SECTION 3.** Article 27 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by
36 adding a new section to read:

37 **"§ 160A-639.1. Duties of the chief administrative officer; appointment of clerk.**

38 (a) Duties. – The chief administrative officer employed by the Authority in accordance
39 with G.S. 160A-639 shall be responsible to the Board of Trustees for administering all matters
40 placed in his or her charge by the Board of Trustees and shall have all of the following powers
41 and duties:

42 (1) To hire, appoint, suspend, or remove any employee of the Authority,
43 provided that nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as superseding or
44 altering any other provision of law governing the suspension or removal of
45 an employee of the Authority.

46 (2) To direct and supervise all employees of the Authority and the
47 administration of all departments, offices, and agencies of the Authority,
48 subject to the general direction and control of the Board of Trustees and
49 except as otherwise provided by law.

50 (3) To attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees and recommend any
51 measures he or she deems expedient.

- 1 (4) To see that all laws of the State are faithfully executed.
2 (5) To prepare and submit the annual budget and capital program to the Board
3 of Trustees.
4 (6) To annually submit to the Board of Trustees and make available to the
5 public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the
6 Authority as of the end of the fiscal year.
7 (7) To make any other reports that the Board of Trustees may require
8 concerning the operations of the Authority.
9 (8) To perform any other duties that may be required or authorized by the Board
10 of Trustees.
11 (b) Clerk. – In addition to the duties set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the chief
12 administrative officer shall designate an employee of the Authority as clerk, whose duties shall
13 include all of the following:
14 (1) Provide notice of meetings of the Board of Trustees.
15 (2) Keep a journal of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees.
16 (3) Be the custodian of all Authority records.
17 (4) Perform any other duties that may be required by law or the Board of
18 Trustees."

19 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015, and applies to contracts
20 entered into and other actions taken by Regional Transportation Authorities on or after that
21 date.