

March 25, 2009

S 910. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES. Filed 3/25/09. *TO REORGANIZE THE STATUTES RELATING TO REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TO AUTHORIZE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CREATE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AGREEMENTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR FINANCING.*

Adds new Chapter 136A ("Regional Transportation Authorities") to the General Statutes and adds new Article 47 ("Regional Transportation Funding Agreement Sales Tax") to GS Chapter 105.

New Chapter 136A authorizes two or more eligible units of local government to enter a Regional Transportation Funding Agreement (RTFA) creating an agency exercising such powers as may be delegated to it by the units of government in the agreement. All units of government must be located in a single EPA ozone attainment area, must have no more than one Metropolitan Planning Organization, must include all counties in the ozone attainment area and all municipalities with at least 5000 population.

The agency is to provide for the preparation and annual updating of a list of transportation projects to be funded. The bill sets criteria to be met for roadway and public transportation projects. Based on total cost, at least 35% must be public transportation or mass transportation projects. Revenue is to be from federal and state sources as available and from RTFA taxes levied as described below. All counties must levy the taxes simultaneously.

New Article 47 authorizes counties who participate in a RTFA to levy a sales and use tax of $\frac{1}{2}\%$ and a tax of 5 cents per gallon on retail sales of gasoline and diesel fuel. Provides for collection and distribution of the taxes by the Secretary of Revenue. Proceeds of these taxes may not be used for administrative expenses of the agency.

Recodifies Article 25 ("Public Transportation Authorities"), Article 26 ("Regional Public Transportation Authority"), and Article 27 ("Regional Transportation Authority") of GS Chapter 160A as Articles 2, 3, and 4 of new Chapter 136A.

Intro. by Clodfelter.

GS 105, 136A, 160A