

HJR 22 -- Highways and Transportation Commission

Sponsor: Green

This proposed constitutional amendment modifies various constitutional provisions regarding the powers and duties of the State Highways and Transportation Commission.

The amendment puts the Director of Transportation in charge of the department rather than the commission.

Beginning January 1, 2005, the commission will consist of one member from each congressional district. Commissioners will serve six-year terms and be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Commission meetings will be held at the discretion of the Director of Transportation. The commission will serve in an advisory capacity to the director on matters relating to state transportation programs. On an annual basis, the commission must approve a statewide multimodal transportation plan submitted by the director.

The resolution reduces the diversion of highway revenues for other purposes by allowing the Department of Transportation, the Department of Revenue, the State Highway Patrol, and the Office of Administration to use highway revenues only for certain enumerated purposes.

The State Auditor is required to conduct an annual audit of expenditures from the State Road Fund and the State Highways and Transportation Department Fund. The findings of the audit must be reported to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1 of each year. The purpose of the audit is to determine if expenditures from the fund are in compliance with state law.