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SENATE BILL NO. 284

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Joint Conference Committee
on March 10, 2012)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Herring)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2201 through 2.2-2204, 2.2-2213, 2.2-2215, 33.1-23.03:2, 33.1-23.7, 58.1-423, and 58.1-638 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 2.2-2203.1 through 2.2-2203.4, relating to the oversight of and funding for commercial space flight in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-2201 through 2.2-2204, 2.2-2213, 2.2-2215, 33.1-23.03:2, 33.1-23.7, 58.1-423, and 58.1-638 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 2.2-2203.1 through 2.2-2203.4 as follows:

§ 2.2-2201. Short title; definitions.

A. This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority Act."

B. As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Authority" means the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority.

"Board" means the board of directors of the Authority.

"Project" means the construction, improvement, furnishing, maintenance, acquisition or operation of any facility or the provision for or funding of any activity that will further the purposes described in § 2.2-2202.

§ 2.2-2202. Declaration of public purpose; Authority created.

A. The General Assembly has determined that there exists in the Commonwealth a need to (i) disseminate knowledge pertaining to scientific and technological research and development among public and private entities; ~~including but not limited to knowledge in the area of commercial space flight;~~ (ii) promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education; and (iii) (ii) (iii) promote industrial and economic development through the development and promotion of the commercial space flight industry. In order to facilitate and coordinate scientific and technological research and development and to promote the industrial and economic development of the Commonwealth, which purposes are declared to be public purposes the advancement of these needs, there is hereby created the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, with the powers and duties set forth in this article, as a public body corporate and as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth. The Authority is constituted as a public instrumentality exercising public functions, and the exercise by the Authority of the powers and duties conferred by this article shall be deemed and held to be the performance of an essential government function of the Commonwealth and a public purpose.

B. To achieve the objectives of subsection A, there is created a political subdivision of the Commonwealth to be known as the "Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority" (the "Authority"). The Authority's exercise of powers conferred by this article shall be deemed to be the performance of an essential governmental function and matters of public necessity for which public moneys may be spent and private property acquired.

§ 2.2-2203. Board of directors; members and officers; Executive Director.

The Authority shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of ~~13~~ nine members, ~~four~~ two of whom shall be the President of the Center for Innovative Technology, the President of Old Dominion University, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and the Secretary of Technology, who shall serve as members of the Board for terms coincident with their terms of office Secretary of Transportation and the Director of the Virginia Department of Aviation or their respective designees. The remaining ~~nine~~ seven members shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: ~~four~~ members representing the commercial space flight industry; two members representing the telecommunications industry; one member representing the County of Accomack, one member representing the County of Northampton, and one at-large member one member representing the business community; one member representing the financial industry; one member representing the marketing industry; one member representing the legal industry; one member representing the research and development industry; and two at-large members. Of the members appointed by the Governor, ~~two~~ one shall be appointed for terms a term of one year, ~~three~~ two for terms of two years, and ~~three~~ two for terms of three years, and two for terms of four years from the effective date of their appointment. Thereafter, the members of the Board shall be appointed for terms of ~~three~~ four years. All members of the Board appointed by the Governor shall be confirmed by each house of the General Assembly. Vacancies in the membership of the Board shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. Members of the Board shall be subject to

60 removal from office in like manner as are state, county, town and district officers under the provisions
61 of §§ ~~24.2-230 through 24.2-238~~. Immediately after appointment, the members of the Board shall enter
62 upon the performance of their duties. All members shall serve until their successors are appointed. Any
63 appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term. No member appointed by the Governor
64 shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms; however, a member appointed to fill a
65 vacancy may serve two additional consecutive terms. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the
66 Governor and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly. Members of the Board shall receive
67 reimbursement for their expenses and shall be compensated at the rate provided in § 2.2-2813 for each
68 day spent on Board business.

69 The Board shall annually elect one of its members as chairman and another as vice-chairman, a
70 secretary, and a treasurer who need not be a member of the Board. The Board may also elect other
71 subordinate officers, who need not be members of the Board, as it deems proper and may also elect
72 from its membership, or appoint from the Authority's staff, a secretary and a treasurer and prescribe
73 their powers and duties. The chairman or, in his absence, the vice-chairman shall preside at all meetings
74 of the Board. In the absence of both the chairman and vice-chairman, the Board shall appoint a
75 chairman pro tempore, who shall preside at such meetings. ~~Seven~~ Five members shall constitute a
76 quorum for the transaction of the Authority's business, and no vacancy in the membership shall impair
77 the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the Authority.

78 The members of the Board shall be entitled to reimbursement for their reasonable travel, meal and
79 lodging expenses incurred in attending the meetings of the Board or while otherwise engaged in the
80 discharge of their duties. Such expenses shall be paid out of the treasury of the Authority upon vouchers
81 signed by the chairman of the Board or by such other person designated by the Board for this purpose.

82 The Board may employ an Executive Director of the Authority, who shall serve at the pleasure of
83 the Board, to direct the day-to-day operations and activities of the Authority and carry out the powers
84 and duties conferred upon him by the Board, including powers and duties involving the exercise of
85 discretion. The Executive Director shall also exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may
86 be lawfully delegated to him and such powers and duties as may be conferred or imposed upon him by
87 law. The Executive Director's compensation from the Commonwealth shall be fixed by the Board in
88 accordance with law. Such compensation shall be established at a level that will enable the Authority to
89 attract and retain a capable Executive Director. The Executive Director and employees of the Authority
90 shall be compensated in the manner provided by the Board and shall not be subject to the provisions of
91 the Virginia Personnel Act (§ 2.2-2900 et seq.) of this title shall employ or retain such other agents or
92 employees subordinate to the Executive Director as may be necessary to carry out the powers and duties
93 of the Authority.

94 § 2.2-2203.1. Advisory Committee.

95 The Board shall form a nonvoting advisory committee to provide assistance and support to the
96 Authority on all matters, with the exception of the annual budget and personnel issues. The Advisory
97 Committee shall consist of six members as follows: two members representing the commercial aerospace
98 industry; two members representing the higher education community; the county administrator from the
99 County of Accomack; and the county executive from the County of Northampton. Advisory Committee
100 members shall be nominated by members of the Board and approved by the Board. Each member of the
101 Advisory Committee shall serve a term of four years, except for the county administrator from the
102 County of Accomack (or his designee) and the county executive from the County of Northampton (or his
103 designee), who shall be appointed for a term coincident with his term as county administrator or county
104 executive, respectively.

105 § 2.2-2203.2. Planning.

106 The Board shall initiate and further plan for the development of commercial space flight in the
107 Commonwealth and, to this end, shall keep informed as to the present requirements and likely future
108 needs of any and all space flight facilities located within the Commonwealth or operated by the
109 Authority. The Board shall submit a strategic plan to the Governor and the General Assembly no later
110 than December 1, 2012, and such plan shall be updated every four years thereafter.

111 § 2.2-2203.3. Employees; employment; personnel rules.

112 A. Employees of the Authority shall be employed on such terms and conditions as established by the
113 Board. The Board shall develop and adopt personnel rules, policies, and procedures to give its
114 employees grievance rights, ensure that employment decisions shall be based upon the merit and fitness
115 of applicants, and prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, or national origin.

116 B. Any employee of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority who is a member of any plan
117 providing health insurance coverage pursuant to Chapter 28 (§ 2.2-2800 et seq.) shall continue to be a
118 member of such health insurance plan under the same terms and conditions. Notwithstanding subsection
119 A of § 2.2-2818, the costs of providing health insurance coverage to such employees who elect to
120 continue to be members of the state employees' health insurance plan shall be paid by the Authority.
121 Alternatively, an employee may elect to become a member of any health insurance plan established by

122 the Authority. The Authority is authorized to (i) establish a health insurance plan for the benefit of its
123 employees and (ii) enter into agreements with the Department of Human Resource Management
124 providing for the coverage of its employees under the state employees' health insurance plan, provided
125 that such agreements require the Authority to pay the costs of providing health insurance coverage
126 under such plan.

127 C. Any retired employee of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority shall be eligible to
128 receive the health insurance credit set forth in § 51.1-1400, provided the retired employee meets the
129 eligibility criteria set forth in that section.

130 D. The Authority is hereby authorized to establish one or more retirement plans for the benefit of its
131 employees (the "Authority retirement plan"). For purposes of such plans, the provisions of § 51.1-126.4
132 shall apply, mutatis mutandis. Any Authority employee who is a member of the Virginia Retirement
133 System or other retirement plan as authorized by Article 4 (§ 51.1-125 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title
134 51.1 (the "statutory optional retirement plan") at the time the Authority retirement plan becomes
135 effective shall continue to be a member of the Virginia Retirement System or the statutory optional
136 retirement plan under the same terms and conditions, unless such employee elects to become a member
137 of the Authority retirement plan.

138 The following rules shall apply:

139 1. The Authority shall collect and pay all employee and employer contributions to the Virginia
140 Retirement System or the statutory optional retirement plan for retirement and group life insurance in
141 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.) of Title 51.1 for any employee who
142 elects to remain a member of the Virginia Retirement System or a statutory optional retirement plan.

143 2. Employees who elect to become members of the Authority retirement plan shall be given full credit
144 for their creditable service as defined in § 51.1-124.3 and vesting and benefit accrual under the
145 Authority retirement plan. For any such employee, employment with the Authority shall be treated as
146 employment with any nonparticipating employer for purposes of the Virginia Retirement System or any
147 statutory optional retirement plan.

148 3. For employees who elect to become members of the Authority retirement plan, the Virginia
149 Retirement System or the statutory optional retirement plan, as applicable, shall transfer to the Authority
150 retirement plan assets equal to the actuarially determined present value of the accrued basic benefits for
151 such employees as of the transfer date. For purposes hereof, "basic benefits" means the benefits accrued
152 under the Virginia Retirement System or under the statutory optional retirement plan based on
153 creditable service and average final compensation as defined in § 51.1-124.3. The actuarial present
154 value shall be determined by using the same actuarial factors and assumptions used in determining the
155 funding needs of the Virginia Retirement System or the statutory optional retirement plan so that the
156 transfer of assets to the Authority retirement plan will have no effect on the funded status and financial
157 stability of the Virginia Retirement System or the statutory optional retirement plan. The Authority shall
158 reimburse the Virginia Retirement System for the cost of actuarial services necessary to determine the
159 present value of the accrued basic benefit of employees who transfer to an Authority retirement plan.

160 4. The Authority may provide that employees of the Authority who are eligible to participate in any
161 deferred compensation plan sponsored by the Authority shall be enrolled automatically in such plan,
162 unless such employee elects, in a manner prescribed by the Board of the Authority, not to participate.
163 The amount of the deferral under the automatic enrollment and the group of employees to which the
164 automatic enrollment shall apply shall be set by the Board, provided, however, that such employees are
165 provided the opportunity to increase or decrease the amount of the deferral in accordance with the
166 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

167 E. The Authority is hereby authorized to establish a plan providing short-term disability and
168 long-term disability benefits for its employees.

169 § 2.2-2203.4. Trust for postemployment benefits authorized; administration.

170 A. The Authority is hereby authorized to establish and maintain a trust or equivalent arrangement
171 for the purpose of accumulating and investing assets to fund postemployment benefits other than
172 pensions, as defined herein. Such trust or equivalent arrangement shall be irrevocable. The assets of
173 such trust or similar arrangement (i) shall be dedicated to providing benefits to retirees and their
174 beneficiaries in accordance with the terms of the plan or programs providing postemployment benefits
175 other than pensions and (ii) shall be exempt from taxation and execution, attachment, garnishment, or
176 any other process against the Authority or a retiree or beneficiary. The funds of the trust or similar
177 arrangement shall be deemed separate and independent trust funds, shall be segregated from all other
178 funds of the Authority, and shall be invested and administered solely in the interests of the active or
179 former employees (and their dependents or beneficiaries) entitled to postemployment benefits other than
180 pensions.

181 B. The Authority may make appropriations to any such trust or equivalent arrangement, and the
182 Authority may require active and former employees covered by a postemployment benefit program to

183 contribute to the trust or equivalent arrangement through payments or deductions from their wages,
184 salaries, or pensions.

185 C. Nothing in this section shall be construed to inhibit the Authority's right to revise or discontinue
186 its plans or programs providing such postemployment benefits other than pensions for its active and
187 former officers and employees as it may deem necessary. If all plans or programs providing such
188 postemployment benefits other than pensions for which the trust or equivalent arrangement is
189 established are repealed or terminated by the Authority, then there shall be no continuing responsibility
190 of the Authority to continue to make appropriations to such trust or equivalent arrangement, and the
191 assets of such trust or equivalent arrangement shall be used to provide any benefits continuing to be
192 due to active or former employees (and their dependents or beneficiaries) under such plans or
193 programs. If there are no active or former employees (or dependents or beneficiaries) due a benefit
194 under any plan or program providing such postemployment benefits other than pensions for which the
195 trust or equivalent arrangement was established, then any remaining assets may revert to the Authority.

196 D. Postemployment benefits other than pensions shall be defined by the Authority pursuant to
197 applicable accounting standards and law. Such benefits may include, but are not limited to, medical,
198 prescription drug, dental, vision, hearing, life, or accident insurance (not provided through a pension
199 plan), long-term care benefits, and long-term disability benefits (not covered under a pension plan)
200 provided to individuals who have terminated their service and to the dependents of such individuals, and
201 may be provided by purchasing insurance, by a program of self-insurance, or by a combination of both.
202 However, postemployment benefits other than pensions shall not include defined benefit pension plans
203 for retirees and eligible dependents of retirees, termination benefits, or other pension benefits. Such
204 postemployment benefits other than pensions may be provided to the officers and employees or to their
205 dependents, estates, or designated beneficiaries. Any benefits arising from any postemployment benefits
206 other than pension programs shall be clearly defined and strictly construed.

207 E. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the moneys and other property comprising the trust
208 or equivalent arrangement established hereunder shall be invested, reinvested, and managed by the
209 Authority or the trust company or bank having powers of a trust company within or without the
210 Commonwealth that is selected by the Board to act as a trustee for the trust or equivalent arrangement
211 with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent
212 person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an
213 enterprise of like character and with the same aims. Such investments shall be diversified so as to
214 minimize the risk of large losses unless under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so. Such
215 investments shall not be limited by Chapter 45 (§ 2.2-4500 et seq.).

216 § 2.2-2204. Powers of the Authority.

217 The Authority is granted all powers necessary or convenient for the carrying out of its statutory
218 purposes, including, but not limited to, the power to:

219 1. Sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, complain and defend in all courts;

220 2. Adopt, use, and alter at will a common seal;

221 3. Acquire any project and property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, or any interest
222 therein, by purchase, gift or devise and to sell, lease (whether as lessor or lessee), transfer, convey or
223 dispose of any project or property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible or any interest therein,
224 at any time acquired or held by the Authority on such terms and conditions as may be determined by
225 the Board;

226 4. Plan, develop, undertake, carry out, construct, equip, improve, rehabilitate, repair, furnish, maintain
227 and operate projects;

228 5. Adopt bylaws for the management and regulation of its affairs an annual budget for the
229 Authority's capital improvements and operations;

230 6. Adopt, alter, and repeal bylaws, rules, and regulations governing the manner in which its business
231 shall be transacted and the manner in which the power of the Authority shall be exercised and its duties
232 performed. Such bylaws, rules, and regulations may provide for such committees and their functions as
233 the Authority may deem necessary and expedient. Such bylaws, rules, and regulations shall be exempt
234 from the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.);

235 67. Fix, alter, charge, and collect rates, rentals, fees, and other charges for the use of projects of, the
236 sale of products of, or services rendered by the Authority at rates to be determined by it for the purpose
237 of providing for the payment of the expenses of the Authority; the planning, development, construction,
238 improvement, rehabilitation, repair, furnishing, maintenance, and operation of its projects and properties;
239 the payment of the costs accomplishing its purposes set forth in § 2.2-2202; the payment of the principal
240 of and interest on its obligations; and the creation of reserves for such purposes, for other purposes of
241 the Authority and to pay the cost of maintaining, repairing and operating any project and fulfilling the
242 terms and provisions of any agreements made with the purchasers or holders of any such obligations
243 and any other purposes as set forth in this article;

244 78. Borrow money, make and issue bonds including bonds as the Authority may determine to issue

245 for the purpose of accomplishing the purposes set forth in § 2.2-2202 or for refunding bonds previously
 246 issued by the Authority, whether such outstanding bonds have matured or are then subject to
 247 redemption, or any combination of such purposes; secure the payment of all bonds, or any part thereof,
 248 by pledge, assignment or deed of trust of all or any of its revenues, rentals, and receipts or of any
 249 project or property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, or any rights and interest therein;
 250 make such agreements with the purchasers or holders of such bonds or with others in connection with
 251 any such bonds, whether issued or to be issued, as the Authority shall deem advisable; and in general to
 252 provide for the security for said bonds and the rights of holders thereof. *However, the total principal*
 253 *amount of bonds, including refunding bonds, outstanding at any time shall not exceed \$50 million,*
 254 *excluding from such limit any revenue bonds. The Authority shall not issue any bonds, other than*
 255 *revenue bonds, that are not specifically authorized by a bill or resolution passed by a majority vote of*
 256 *those elected to each house of the General Assembly;*

257 89. Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of
 258 its duties, the furtherance of its purposes, and the execution of its powers under this article, including
 259 interstate compacts *that have been authorized by the General Assembly and where necessary consented*
 260 *to by the United States Congress* and agreements with any person or federal agency;

261 910. Employ, in its discretion, consultants, attorneys, architects, engineers, accountants, financial
 262 experts, investment bankers, superintendents, managers and such other employees and agents as may be
 263 necessary, and to fix their compensation to be payable from funds made available to the Authority;

264 1011. Receive and accept from any federal or private agency, foundation, corporation, association or
 265 person grants, donations of money, real or personal property for the benefit of the Authority, and to
 266 receive and accept from the Commonwealth or any state, and any municipality, county or other political
 267 subdivision thereof and from any other source, aid or contributions of either money, property, or other
 268 things of value, to be held, used and applied for the purposes for which such grants and contributions
 269 may be made;

270 1112. Render advice and assistance, and to provide services, to institutions of higher education
 271 ~~including, but not limited to, Old Dominion University,~~ and to other persons providing services or
 272 facilities for scientific and technological research or graduate education, provided that credit toward a
 273 degree, certificate or diploma shall be granted only if such education is provided in conjunction with an
 274 institution of higher education authorized to operate in Virginia;

275 1213. Develop, undertake and provide programs, alone or in conjunction with any person or federal
 276 agency, for scientific and technological research, technology management, continuing education and
 277 in-service training; however, credit towards a degree, certificate or diploma shall be granted only if such
 278 education is provided in conjunction with an institution of higher education authorized to operate in
 279 Virginia; foster the utilization of scientific and technological research, information discoveries and data
 280 and obtain patents, copyrights and trademarks thereon; coordinate the scientific and technological
 281 research efforts of public institutions and private industry and collect and maintain data on the
 282 development and utilization of scientific and technological research capabilities;

283 1314. Pledge or otherwise encumber all or any of the revenues or receipts of the Authority as
 284 security for all or any of the obligations of the Authority; *and*

285 14. ~~Appoint an industry advisory board to advise the Authority on issues related to the performance~~
 286 ~~of its duties, the furtherance of its purposes and the execution of its powers under this article. The~~
 287 ~~Authority shall have full discretion in determining the number and qualifications of members it appoints~~
 288 ~~to the industry advisory board, and whether such members shall be compensated from the funds made~~
 289 ~~available to the Authority; and~~

290 15. Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers granted to it by law.

291 § 2.2-2213. Forms of accounts and records; audit; annual report.

292 The accounts and records of the Authority showing the receipt and disbursement of funds from
 293 whatever source derived, shall be in a form prescribed by the Auditor of Public Accounts. The Auditor
 294 of Public Accounts or his legally authorized representatives, shall annually examine the accounts and
 295 books of the Authority governmental generally accepted accounting standards. Such accounts shall
 296 correspond as nearly as possible to the accounts and records for such matters maintained by corporate
 297 enterprises.

298 *The accounts of the Authority shall be audited annually by a certified public accounting firm selected*
 299 *by the Auditor of Public Accounts with the assistance of the Authority through a process of competitive*
 300 *negotiation. The cost of such audit and review shall be borne by the Authority.*

301 The Authority shall submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before
 302 November 1 of each year. Such report shall contain the audited annual financial statements of the
 303 Authority for the year ending the preceding June 30.

304 § 2.2-2215. Powers not restrictive; exemptions from Public Procurement Act and the Virginia
 305 Personnel Act.

306 The provisions of the Virginia Personnel Act (§ 2.2-2900 et seq.) and the Virginia Public
307 Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq.) of this title shall not apply to the Authority in the exercise of any
308 power conferred under this article.

309 *The Authority shall have the power to perform any act or carry out any function not inconsistent*
310 *with state law, whether or not included in the provisions of this article, which may be, or may tend to*
311 *be, useful in carrying out the provisions of this article. The provisions of the Virginia Public*
312 *Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq.) shall not apply to the Authority in the exercise of any of its powers*
313 *provided that the Board adopt procedures to ensure fairness and competitiveness in the procurement of*
314 *goods and services and the administration of its capital outlay plan. The provisions of the Virginia*
315 *Personnel Act (§ 2.2-2900 et seq.) shall not apply to the Authority in the exercise of any of its powers.*
316 *The Authority shall be exempt from the provisions of §§ 2.2-1124, 2.2-1131.1, 2.2-1136, 2.2-1149,*
317 *2.2-1153, 2.2-1154, and 2.2-1156, provided that (i) the Authority adopts and the Board approves*
318 *regulations governing the acquisition, lease, or sale of surplus and real property consistent with the*
319 *provisions of the above-referenced sections and (ii) any acquisition, lease, or sale of real property*
320 *valued in excess of \$20 million shall be approved by the Governor.*

321 § 33.1-23.03:2. Commonwealth Space Flight Fund, Commonwealth Port Fund, Commonwealth
322 Airport Fund and Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund.

323 Of the funds becoming part of the Transportation Trust Fund pursuant to subdivision 3 of
324 § 33.1-23.03:1, an aggregate of 4.2 percent shall be set aside as the Commonwealth Port Fund; an
325 aggregate of 2.4 percent shall be set aside as the Commonwealth Airport Fund; and an aggregate of ~~14.5~~
326 ~~percent in fiscal year 1998-1999 and 14.7 percent in fiscal year 1999-2000 and thereafter~~ shall be set
327 aside as the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund. *In addition, each fiscal year from the funds becoming*
328 *part of the Transportation Trust Fund pursuant to subdivision 3 of § 33.1-23.03:1 the Comptroller shall*
329 *transfer \$7.5 million to the Commonwealth Space Flight Fund. The remaining 78.9 percent of the funds*
330 *deposited into or held in the Transportation Trust Fund in fiscal year 1998-1999, and 78.7 percent of the*
331 *funds deposited into or held in the Transportation Trust Fund in fiscal year 1999-2000 and thereafter,*
332 *pursuant to subdivision 3 of § 33.1-23.03:1, together with funds deposited pursuant to subdivisions 1 and*
333 *6 of § 33.1-23.03:1, shall be expended for capital improvements including construction, reconstruction,*
334 *maintenance, and improvements of highways according to the provisions of § 33.1-23.1 B or to secure*
335 *bonds issued for such purposes, as provided by the Board and the General Assembly.*

336 § 33.1-23.7. Definitions.

337 As used in this article, whether in capitalized or uncapitalized form, each of the following terms has
338 the meaning given it in this section, unless the context requires a different meaning to be consistent with
339 the manifest intention of the General Assembly:

340 "Bank" means the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank created in § 33.1-23.8.

341 "Board" means the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

342 "Cost," as applied to any project financed under the provisions of this article, means the total of all
343 costs including, but not limited to, the costs of planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, engineering,
344 and construction incurred by an Eligible Borrower or other Project Sponsor as reasonable and necessary
345 for carrying out all works and undertakings necessary or incident to the accomplishment of any project.
346 The term also includes capitalized interest, reasonably required reserve funds, and financing, credit
347 enhancement, and issuance costs.

348 "Credit enhancements" means surety bonds, insurance policies, letters of credit, guarantees, and other
349 forms of collateral or security.

350 "Creditworthiness" means attributes such as revenue stability, debt service coverage, reserves, and
351 other factors commonly considered in assessing the strength of the security for indebtedness.

352 "Eligible Borrower" means any (i) Private Entity; (ii) Governmental Entity; (iii) instrumentality,
353 corporation, or entity established by any of the foregoing pursuant to § 33.1-23.11; or (iv) combination
354 of two or more of the foregoing.

355 "Finance" and any variation of the term, when used in connection with a cost or a project, includes
356 both the initial financing and any refinancing of the cost or project and any variation of such terms.

357 "Governmental Entity" means any (i) Locality; (ii) local, regional, state, or federal entity;
358 transportation authority, planning district, commission, or political subdivision created by the General
359 Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth; or public transportation entity
360 owned, operated, or controlled by one or more local entities; (iii) entity established by interstate
361 compact; (iv) instrumentality, corporation, or entity established by any of the foregoing pursuant to
362 § 33.1-23.11; or (v) any combination of two or more of the foregoing.

363 "Grant" means a transfer of moneys or property that does not impose any obligation or condition on
364 the grantee to repay any amount to the transferor other than in connection with assuring that the
365 transferred moneys or property will be spent or used in accordance with the governmental purpose of
366 the transfer. Such term includes, without limitation, direct cash payments made to pay or reimburse all
367 or a portion of interest payments made by a grantee on a debt obligation. As provided in §§ 33.1-23.8

368 and 33.1-23.9, only Governmental Entities may receive grants of moneys or property held in or for the
369 credit of the Bank.

370 "Loan" means an obligation subject to repayment that is provided by the Bank to an Eligible
371 Borrower to finance all or a part of the eligible cost of a project incurred by the Eligible Borrower or
372 other Project Sponsor. A loan may be disbursed (i) in anticipation of reimbursement (including an
373 advance or draw under a credit enhancement instrument), (ii) as direct payment of eligible costs, or (iii)
374 to redeem or defease a prior obligation incurred by the Eligible Borrower or other Project Sponsor to
375 finance the eligible costs of a project.

376 "Locality" means any county, city, or town in the Commonwealth.

377 "Management agreement" means the memorandum of understanding or interagency agreement among
378 the Manager, the Secretary of Finance and the Board as authorized under subsection B of § 33.1-23.8.

379 "Manager" means the Virginia Resources Authority serving as the manager, administrator and trustee
380 of funds disbursed from the Bank in accordance with the provisions of this article and the management
381 agreement.

382 "Other financial assistance" means, but is not limited to, grants, capital or debt reserves for bonds or
383 debt instrument financing, provision of letters of credit and other forms of credit enhancement, and other
384 lawful forms of financing and methods of leveraging funds that are approved by the Manager.

385 "Private Entity" means any private or nongovernmental entity that has executed an interim or
386 comprehensive agreement to develop and construct a transportation infrastructure project pursuant to the
387 Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (§ 56-556 et seq.).

388 "Project" means (i) the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of any interstate,
389 state highway, toll road, tunnel, local road, or bridge; or (ii) the construction, reconstruction,
390 rehabilitation, or replacement, of any (a) mass transit, (b) commuter, passenger, or freight rail, (c) port,
391 or (d) airport, or (e) commercial space flight facility; or the acquisition of any rolling stock, vehicle, or
392 equipment to be used therewith.

393 "Project obligation" means any bond, note, debenture, interim certificate, grant or revenue
394 anticipation note, lease or lease-purchase or installment sales agreement, or credit enhancements issued,
395 incurred, or entered into by an Eligible Borrower to evidence a loan, or any financing agreements,
396 reimbursement agreements, guarantees, or other evidences of an obligation of an Eligible Borrower or
397 other Project Sponsor to pay or guarantee a loan.

398 "Project Sponsor" means any Private Entity or Governmental Entity that is involved in the planning,
399 design, right-of-way acquisition, engineering, construction, maintenance or financing of a project.

400 "Reliable repayment source" means any means by which an Eligible Borrower or other Project
401 Sponsor generates funds that are dedicated to the purpose of retiring a project obligation.

402 "Substantial project completion" means the opening of a project for vehicular or passenger traffic or
403 the handling of cargo and freight.

404 § 58.1-423. Income tax paid by commercial spaceflight entities.

405 A. Beginning July 1, 2011, and for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, the portion of the
406 Virginia income tax net revenue generated by qualified corporations or limited liability companies that is
407 attributable to the sale of commercial human spaceflights or commercial spaceflight training (regardless
408 of point of sale, or where space flight takes place), or is incidental to the sale of commercial human
409 spaceflights, shall be transferred to the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, established pursuant
410 to Article 2 (§ 2.2-2201 et seq.) of Chapter 22 of Title 2.2. The Tax Commissioner shall make a written
411 certification to the Comptroller within 15 days of the close of each calendar quarter providing an
412 estimate of the portion of the Virginia income tax net revenue generated during the calendar quarter by
413 the qualified corporations or limited liability companies that is attributable to the sale of commercial
414 human spaceflights or commercial spaceflight training or is incidental to the sale of commercial human
415 spaceflights. Not later than 30 days after the close of each quarter, the Comptroller shall transfer to the
416 Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority an amount from the general fund that is equal to the
417 estimate provided by the Tax Commissioner.

418 B. For purposes of this section, a qualified corporation or limited liability company is a corporation
419 or limited liability company that engages in commercial human spaceflights or commercial spaceflight
420 training.

421 § 58.1-638. Disposition of state sales and use tax revenue; localities' share; Game Protection Fund.

422 A. The Comptroller shall designate a specific revenue code number for all the state sales and use tax
423 revenue collected under the preceding sections of this chapter.

424 1. The sales and use tax revenue generated by the one-half percent sales and use tax increase enacted
425 by the 1986 Special Session of the General Assembly shall be paid, in the manner hereinafter provided
426 in this section, to the Transportation Trust Fund as defined in § 33.1-23.03:1. Of the funds paid to the
427 Transportation Trust Fund, an aggregate of 4.2 percent shall be set aside as the Commonwealth Port
428 Fund as provided in this section; an aggregate of 2.4 percent shall be set aside as the Commonwealth

429 Airport Fund as provided in this section; and an aggregate of 14.5 percent in fiscal year 1998-1999 and
430 14.7 percent in fiscal year 1999-2000 and thereafter shall be set aside as the Commonwealth Mass
431 Transit Fund as provided in this section. The Fund's share of such net revenue shall be computed as an
432 estimate of the net revenue to be received into the state treasury each month, and such estimated
433 payment shall be adjusted for the actual net revenue received in the preceding month. All payments shall
434 be made to the Fund on the last day of each month.

435 2. There is hereby created in the Department of the Treasury a special nonreverting fund which shall
436 be a part of the Transportation Trust Fund and which shall be known as the Commonwealth Port Fund.

437 a. The Commonwealth Port Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller and the funds
438 remaining in such Fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in
439 the Fund. Interest earned on such funds shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Funds may be
440 paid to any authority, locality or commission for the purposes hereinafter specified.

441 b. The amounts allocated pursuant to this section shall be allocated by the Commonwealth
442 Transportation Board to the Board of Commissioners of the Virginia Port Authority to be used to
443 support port capital needs and the preservation of existing capital needs of all ocean, river, or tributary
444 ports within the Commonwealth.

445 c. Commonwealth Port Fund revenue shall be allocated by the Board of Commissioners to the
446 Virginia Port Authority in order to foster and stimulate the flow of maritime commerce through the
447 ports of Virginia, including but not limited to the ports of Richmond, Hopewell and Alexandria.

448 3. There is hereby created in the Department of the Treasury a special nonreverting fund which shall
449 be part of the Transportation Trust Fund and which shall be known as the Commonwealth Airport Fund.
450 The Commonwealth Airport Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller and any funds
451 remaining in such Fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in
452 the Fund. Interest earned on the funds shall be credited to the Fund. The funds so allocated shall be
453 allocated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board to the Virginia Aviation Board. The funds shall
454 be allocated by the Virginia Aviation Board to any Virginia airport which is owned by the
455 Commonwealth, a governmental subdivision thereof, or a private entity to which the public has access
456 for the purposes enumerated in § 5.1-2.16, or is owned or leased by the Metropolitan Washington
457 Airports Authority (MWAA), as follows:

458 Any new funds in excess of \$12.1 million which are available for allocation by the Virginia Aviation
459 Board from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, shall be allocated as follows: 60 percent to
460 MWAA, up to a maximum annual amount of \$2 million, and 40 percent to air carrier airports as
461 provided in subdivision A 3 a. Except for adjustments due to changes in enplaned passengers, no air
462 carrier airport sponsor, excluding MWAA, shall receive less funds identified under subdivision A 3 a
463 than it received in fiscal year 1994-1995.

464 Of the remaining amount:

465 a. Forty percent of the funds shall be allocated to air carrier airports, except airports owned or leased
466 by MWAA, based upon the percentage of enplanements for each airport to total enplanements at all air
467 carrier airports, except airports owned or leased by MWAA. No air carrier airport sponsor, however,
468 shall receive less than \$50,000 nor more than \$2 million per year from this provision.

469 b. Forty percent of the funds shall be allocated by the Aviation Board for air carrier and reliever
470 airports on a discretionary basis, except airports owned or leased by MWAA.

471 c. Twenty percent of the funds shall be allocated by the Aviation Board for general aviation airports
472 on a discretionary basis.

473 *3a. There is hereby created in the Department of the Treasury a special nonreverting fund that shall*
474 *be a part of the Transportation Trust Fund and that shall be known as the Commonwealth Space Flight*
475 *Fund. The Commonwealth Space Flight Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller and*
476 *the funds remaining in such Fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall*
477 *remain in the Fund. Interest earned on such funds shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it.*

478 *a. The amounts allocated to the Commonwealth Space Flight Fund pursuant to § 33.1-23.03:2 shall*
479 *be allocated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board to the Board of Directors of the Virginia*
480 *Commercial Space Flight Authority to be used to support the capital needs, maintenance, and operating*
481 *costs of any and all facilities owned and operated by the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority.*

482 *b. Commonwealth Space Flight Fund revenue shall be allocated by the Board of Directors to the*
483 *Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority in order to foster and stimulate the growth of the*
484 *commercial space flight industry in Virginia.*

485 4. There is hereby created in the Department of the Treasury a special nonreverting fund which shall
486 be a part of the Transportation Trust Fund and which shall be known as the Commonwealth Mass
487 Transit Fund.

488 a. The Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller and
489 any funds remaining in such Fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the general fund but
490 shall remain in the Fund. Interest earned on such funds shall be credited to the Fund. Funds may be

491 paid to any local governing body, transportation district commission, or public service corporation for
492 the purposes hereinafter specified.

493 b. The amounts allocated pursuant to this section shall be used to support the public transportation
494 administrative costs and the costs borne by the locality for the purchase of fuels, lubricants, tires and
495 maintenance parts and supplies for public transportation at a state share of 80 percent in 2002 and 95
496 percent in 2003 and succeeding years. These amounts may be used to support up to 95 percent of the
497 local or nonfederal share of capital project costs for public transportation and ridesharing equipment,
498 facilities, and associated costs. Capital costs may include debt service payments on local or agency
499 transit bonds. The term "borne by the locality" means the local share eligible for state assistance
500 consisting of costs in excess of the sum of fares and other operating revenues plus federal assistance
501 received by the locality.

502 c. Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund revenue shall be allocated by the Commonwealth
503 Transportation Board as follows:

504 (1) Funds for special programs, which shall include ridesharing, experimental transit, and technical
505 assistance, shall not exceed 1.5 percent of the Fund.

506 (2) The Board may allocate these funds to any locality or planning district commission to finance up
507 to 80 percent of the local share of all costs associated with the development, implementation, and
508 continuation of ridesharing programs.

509 (3) Funds allocated for experimental transit projects may be paid to any local governing body,
510 transportation district commission, or public corporation or may be used directly by the Department of
511 Rail and Public Transportation for the following purposes:

512 (a) To finance up to 95 percent of the capital costs related to the development, implementation and
513 promotion of experimental public transportation and ridesharing projects approved by the Board.

514 (b) To finance up to 95 percent of the operating costs of experimental mass transportation and
515 ridesharing projects approved by the Board for a period of time not to exceed 12 months.

516 (c) To finance up to 95 percent of the cost of the development and implementation of any other
517 project designated by the Board where the purpose of such project is to enhance the provision and use
518 of public transportation services.

519 d. Funds allocated for public transportation promotion and operation studies may be paid to any local
520 governing body, planning district commission, transportation district commission, or public transit
521 corporation, or may be used directly by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the
522 following purposes and aid of public transportation services:

523 (1) At the approval of the Board to finance a program administered by the Department of Rail and
524 Public Transportation designed to promote the use of public transportation and ridesharing throughout
525 Virginia.

526 (2) To finance up to 50 percent of the local share of public transportation operations planning and
527 technical study projects approved by the Board.

528 e. At least 73.5 percent of the Fund shall be distributed to each transit property in the same
529 proportion as its operating expenses bear to the total statewide operating expenses and shall be spent for
530 the purposes specified in subdivision 4 b.

531 f. The remaining 25 percent shall be distributed for capital purposes on the basis of 95 percent of the
532 nonfederal share for federal projects and 95 percent of the total costs for nonfederal projects. In the
533 event that total capital funds available under this subdivision are insufficient to fund the complete list of
534 eligible projects, the funds shall be distributed to each transit property in the same proportion that such
535 capital expenditure bears to the statewide total of capital projects. Prior to the annual adoption of the
536 Six-Year Improvement Program, the Commonwealth Transportation Board may allocate up to 20 percent
537 of the funds in the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund designated for capital purposes to transit
538 operating assistance if operating funds for the next fiscal year are estimated to be less than the current
539 fiscal year's allocation, to attempt to maintain transit operations at approximately the same level as the
540 previous fiscal year.

541 g. There is hereby created in the Department of the Treasury a special nonreverting fund known as
542 the Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund. The Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund shall be part of the
543 Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund. The Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund subaccount shall be
544 established on the books of the Comptroller and consist of such moneys as are appropriated to it by the
545 General Assembly and of all donations, gifts, bequests, grants, endowments, and other moneys given,
546 bequeathed, granted, or otherwise made available to the Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund. Any funds
547 remaining in the Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the
548 general fund, but shall remain in the Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund. Interest earned on funds
549 within the Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund shall remain in and be credited to the Commonwealth
550 Transit Capital Fund. Proceeds of the Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund may be paid to any political
551 subdivision, another public entity created by an act of the General Assembly, or a private entity as

552 defined in § 56-557 and for purposes as enumerated in subdivision 4c of § 33.1-269 or expended by the
553 Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the purposes specified in this subdivision. Revenues of
554 the Commonwealth Transit Capital Fund shall be used to support capital expenditures involving the
555 establishment, improvement, or expansion of public transportation services through specific projects
556 approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Projects financed by the Commonwealth Transit
557 Capital Fund shall receive local, regional or private funding for at least 20 percent of the nonfederal
558 share of the total project cost.

559 5. Funds for Metro shall be paid by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) to the
560 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and be a credit to the Counties of
561 Arlington and Fairfax and the Cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax in the following manner:

562 a. Local obligations for debt service for WMATA rail transit bonds apportioned to each locality
563 using WMATA's capital formula shall be paid first by NVTC. NVTC shall use 95 percent state aid for
564 these payments.

565 b. The remaining funds shall be apportioned to reflect WMATA's allocation formulas by using the
566 related WMATA-allocated subsidies and relative shares of local transit subsidies. Capital costs shall
567 include 20 percent of annual local bus capital expenses. Hold harmless protections and obligations for
568 NVTC's jurisdictions agreed to by NVTC on November 5, 1998, shall remain in effect.

569 Appropriations from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund are intended to provide a stable and
570 reliable source of revenue as defined by Public Law 96-184.

571 B. The sales and use tax revenue generated by a one percent sales and use tax shall be distributed
572 among the counties and cities of ~~this~~ *the* Commonwealth in the manner provided in subsections C and
573 D.

574 C. The localities' share of the net revenue distributable under this section among the counties and
575 cities shall be apportioned by the Comptroller and distributed among them by warrants of the
576 Comptroller drawn on the Treasurer of Virginia as soon as practicable after the close of each month
577 during which the net revenue was received into the state treasury. The distribution of the localities' share
578 of such net revenue shall be computed with respect to the net revenue received into the state treasury
579 during each month, and such distribution shall be made as soon as practicable after the close of each
580 such month.

581 D. The net revenue so distributable among the counties and cities shall be apportioned and
582 distributed upon the basis of the latest yearly estimate of the population of cities and counties ages five
583 to 19, provided by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia. Such
584 population estimate produced by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of
585 Virginia shall account for persons who are domiciled in orphanages or charitable institutions or who are
586 dependents living on any federal military or naval reservation or other federal property within the school
587 division in which the institutions or federal military or naval reservation or other federal property is
588 located. Such population estimate produced by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the
589 University of Virginia shall account for members of the military services who are under 20 years of age
590 within the school division in which the parents or guardians of such persons legally reside. Such
591 population estimate produced by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of
592 Virginia shall account for persons who are confined in state hospitals, state training schools or state
593 training centers for the mentally retarded, mental institutions, or state or federal correctional institutions
594 or who attend the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind within the school division in which the
595 parents or guardians of such persons legally reside. Such population estimate produced by the Weldon
596 Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia shall account for persons who attend
597 institutions of higher education within the school division in which the student's parents or guardians
598 legally reside. To such estimate, the Department of Education shall add the population of students with
599 disabilities, ages two through four and 20 through 21, as provided to the Department of Education by
600 school divisions. The revenue so apportionable and distributable is hereby appropriated to the several
601 counties and cities for maintenance, operation, capital outlays, debt and interest payments, or other
602 expenses incurred in the operation of the public schools, which shall be considered as funds raised from
603 local resources. In any county, however, wherein is situated any incorporated town constituting a school
604 division, the county treasurer shall pay into the town treasury for maintenance, operation, capital outlays,
605 debt and interest payments, or other expenses incurred in the operation of the public schools, the proper
606 proportionate amount received by him in the ratio that the school population of such town bears to the
607 school population of the entire county. If the school population of any city or of any town constituting a
608 school division is increased by the annexation of territory since the last estimate of school population
609 provided by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, such increase shall, for the purposes of this
610 section, be added to the school population of such city or town as shown by the last such estimate and a
611 proper reduction made in the school population of the county or counties from which the annexed
612 territory was acquired.

613 E. Beginning July 1, 2000, of the remaining sales and use tax revenue, the revenue generated by a

614 two percent sales and use tax, up to an annual amount of \$13 million, collected from the sales of
 615 hunting equipment, auxiliary hunting equipment, fishing equipment, auxiliary fishing equipment,
 616 wildlife-watching equipment, and auxiliary wildlife-watching equipment in Virginia, as estimated by the
 617 most recent U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of
 618 Commerce, Bureau of the Census National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated
 619 Recreation, shall be paid into the Game Protection Fund established under § 29.1-101 and shall be used,
 620 in part, to defray the cost of law enforcement. Not later than 30 days after the close of each quarter, the
 621 Comptroller shall transfer to the Game Protection Fund the appropriate amount of collections to be
 622 dedicated to such Fund. At any time that the balance in the Capital Improvement Fund, established
 623 under § 29.1-101.01, is equal to or in excess of \$35 million, any portion of sales and use tax revenues
 624 that would have been transferred to the Game Protection Fund, established under § 29.1-101, in excess
 625 of the net operating expenses of the Board, after deduction of other amounts which accrue to the Board
 626 and are set aside for the Game Protection Fund, shall remain in the general fund until such time as the
 627 balance in the Capital Improvement Fund is less than \$35 million.

628 F. 1. Of the net revenue generated from the one-half percent increase in the rate of the state sales
 629 and use tax effective August 1, 2004, pursuant to enactments of the 2004 Special Session I of the
 630 General Assembly, the Comptroller shall transfer from the general fund of the state treasury to the
 631 Public Education Standards of Quality/Local Real Estate Property Tax Relief Fund established under
 632 § 58.1-638.1 an amount equivalent to one-half of the net revenue generated from such one-half percent
 633 increase as provided in this subdivision. The transfers to the Public Education Standards of
 634 Quality/Local Real Estate Property Tax Relief Fund under this subdivision shall be for one-half of the
 635 net revenue generated (and collected in the succeeding month) from such one-half percent increase for
 636 the month of August 2004 and for each month thereafter.

637 2. For the purposes of the Comptroller making the required transfers under subdivision 1, the Tax
 638 Commissioner shall make a written certification to the Comptroller no later than the twenty-fifth of each
 639 month certifying the sales and use tax revenues generated in the preceding month. Within three calendar
 640 days of receiving such certification, the Comptroller shall make the required transfers to the Public
 641 Education Standards of Quality/Local Real Estate Property Tax Relief Fund.

642 G. If errors are made in any distribution, or adjustments are otherwise necessary, the errors shall be
 643 corrected and adjustments made in the distribution for the next quarter or for subsequent quarters.

644 H. The term "net revenue," as used in this section, means the gross revenue received into the general
 645 fund or the Transportation Trust Fund of the state treasury under the preceding sections of this chapter,
 646 less refunds to taxpayers.

647 **2. That all appointments to the Board of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority shall**
 648 **expire on July 1, 2012. New appointments shall be made to the Board pursuant to the provisions**
 649 **of § 2.2-2203 of the Code of Virginia.**

650 **3. That the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority created under § 2.2-2202 of the Code of**
 651 **Virginia shall issue a written notice to its employees regarding the Authority's status. The date**
 652 **upon which such written notice is issued shall be referred to herein as the "option date." Each**
 653 **employee may, by written request made within the 180 days immediately following the option date,**
 654 **elect not to become employed by the Authority. Any employee of the Virginia Commercial Space**
 655 **Flight Authority who (i) elects not to become employed by the Authority and who is not**
 656 **reemployed by any other department, institution, board, commission, or agency of the**
 657 **Commonwealth; (ii) is not offered the opportunity to remain employed by the Authority; or (iii) is**
 658 **not offered a position with the Authority for which the employee is qualified or is offered a**
 659 **position that requires relocation or a reduction in salary, shall be eligible for the severance**
 660 **benefits conferred by the provisions of the Workforce Transition Act (§ 2.2-3200 et seq.) of the**
 661 **Code of Virginia. Any employee who accepts employment with the Authority shall not be**
 662 **considered to be involuntarily separated from state employment and shall not be eligible for the**
 663 **severance benefits conferred by the Workforce Transition Act.**