



State of Tennessee
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 835

SENATE BILL NO. 3616

By Tracy

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3627

By Phillip Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 29, Chapter 20 and Title 64, Chapter 8, relative to regional transportation authorities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 64-8-202, is amended by deleting subdivision (1) in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

(1) "Authority" means a regional transportation authority created pursuant to this part or reconstituted pursuant to § 64-8-203(b).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 64-8-207(3), is amended by deleting the language ", condemn pursuant to the provisions in this part governing the exercise of the power of eminent domain by the authority,".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-20-107(g)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(g)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, non-governmental independent contractors or other persons or entities that contract with or enter into any agreements with the regional transportation authority, as defined and created in Title 64, Chapter 8, for the provision of commuter rail transit services, facilities, or functions upon a rail line or rail line right-of-way owned and maintained by a governmental entity shall be granted limited tort exposure under this chapter. This grant of limited tort exposure shall be provided only when the non-governmental independent contractors or other persons or entities are providing by contract or agreement the rail transit services, facilities, or functions that Title 64, Chapter 8 authorizes the regional transportation authority to perform.

(B) In performing or providing such rail transit services, facilities, or functions, the non-governmental independent contractors or other persons or entities are deemed to be the functional equivalent of the regional transportation authority. They are performing or providing these rail transit services, facilities, or functions in the stead of the regional transportation authority and by such are fulfilling a public purpose that is authorized to be performed by the regional transportation authority. The regional transportation authority shall enter into such contracts or agreements because it has been determined by the board of the regional transportation authority to be more cost effective to contract or enter into an agreement for the rail transit services, facilities, or functions. When the regional transportation authority's independent contractor or other person or entity that provides these rail transit services, facilities, or functions is deemed to be the functional equivalent of the regional transportation authority as provided for in this subsection (g), then the regional transportation authority's contracting party or party to the agreement shall have limited tort exposure as long as the regional transportation authority's contracting party or party to the agreement was performing rail transit services, facilities or functions within the scope of work and during the normal course of work of the contract or agreement when the accident occurred. The regional transportation authority's contracting party or party to the agreement will not be afforded any limits to its tort exposure for gross negligence in the performance of the contract or agreement.

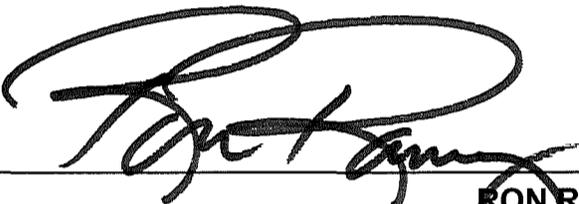
(C) For any rail transit accident, occurrence, or act, the limits of tort exposure for the regional transportation authority's contracting party or party to the agreement shall be two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for bodily injury or death of any one (1) person in any one (1) accident, occurrence or act, and thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) for bodily injury or death of all persons in any one (1) accident, occurrence, or act arising or that occurred during that time frame. No tort liability limits shall be granted to the non-governmental contractor or other persons or entities that contract with or enter into any agreement with the regional transportation authority for injury to or destruction of property in any accident, occurrence, or act. The regional transportation authority shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, a self insurance retention fund in a minimum amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) up to an amount not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000), which shall be utilized as a first fund source for any payment of a tort claim arising from any rail transit accident, occurrence or act that results in bodily injury or death to one (1) or more persons.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-20-107, is amended by deleting subdivision (g)(3) in its entirety.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 11, 2012

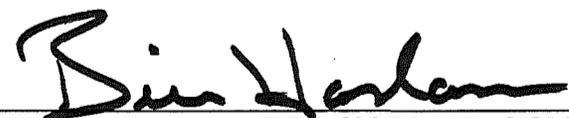


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 11th day of April 2012



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR