



HOUSE BILL 967: DOT Fin. Preservation and Accountability Act.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Appropriations, Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	October 23, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Torbett	Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H967-CSBGa-61		

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 967 would do the following:*

- *Transfer funds to the Department of Transportation (Department) for Map Act claim expenditure reimbursement.*
- *Make savings reserve funds available to the Department for nationally declared disasters.*
- *Lend funds to the Department to avoid project and contracting delays.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

SECTION 1: The State Controller would be required to transfer the sum of \$360,200,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year from the General Fund to the Department to reimburse the Department for funds expended to resolve claims and causes of action arising from transportation corridor official maps. The Department would be required to continue suspended preliminary engineering projects, and remaining funds would be used to further meet cash flow needs of the Department. The Department would submit a report detailing the Department's use of the funds.

SECTION 2: Currently, the Savings Reserve is available for expenditure upon appropriation to: cover a decline in General Fund revenue; cover the difference between that fiscal year's General Fund operating budget appropriations and projected revenue; pay costs imposed by a court or administrative order; and provide relief and assistance from the effects of an emergency. Under other circumstances, the Savings Reserve is available for extraordinary purposes.

Section 2 would require the funds reserved to the Savings Reserve to be available to the Department for a nationally declared disaster upon appropriation by the General Assembly. The total amount of funds available for any one nationally declared disaster would be \$300,000,000 per fiscal year.

SECTION 3: The State Controller would be required to transfer the sum of \$301,000,000 in funds as a loan to the Department for the 2019-2020 fiscal year from the Savings Reserve to the Highway Fund to avoid delays in highway project management and delivery, and letting of contracts. The Department would be required to repay funds in three equal payments by 2025, and submit a report detailing its use of funds.

SECTION 4. Beginning July 1, 2021, the Department would use federal reimbursements for costs related to disaster relief to fulfill its repayment obligations pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it becomes law.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



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Legislative Analysis
Division
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