



2025-2026 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 257: 2026 Appropriations Act, Sec. 43.27: Cancellation of Strategic Transportation Improvement Program Projects

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-41, Sec. 43.27

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Section 43.27 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) amends the laws that relate to the Strategic Prioritization Funding Plan for Transportation Investments (STI) to authorize the Department of Transportation to recoup preliminary project costs incurred by the Department from local governments when statewide projects are removed from the Strategic Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) by:

- A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) taking unilateral action to remove a statewide project from its Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), or preventing the project from being delivered or funded in the manner originally programmed in the MTIP, and the Board of Transportation approves the removal or cancellation of the statewide project.
- A Rural Planning Organization (RPO) taking unilateral action to remove a statewide project from its Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), or preventing the project from being delivered or funded in the manner originally programmed in the CTP, and the Board of Transportation approves the removal or cancellation of the statewide project.

This section also specifies that a local government that voted at the May 20, 2026, Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) board meeting to rescind the October 16, 2024, resolution authorizing a P3 delivery process for the I-77 South project shall not be required to reimburse the Department if, within 90 days of July 7, 2026, that local government votes in favor of reinstating the October 16, 2024, resolution at a CRTPO board meeting held after July 7, 2026.

The provision that relates to the CRTPO became effective July 7, 2026, and the remainder of this section became effective retroactively to January 1, 2026.

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