

SENATE BILL 1165

By Massey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54,
relative to public transportation.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's public transit agencies provide service in all 95 counties of the state; and

WHEREAS, over 33 million trips were taken on public transportation in Tennessee in 2013, a 3.1% increase over the previous year; and

WHEREAS, public transportation reduces congestion and pollution, saves energy, improves air quality, contributes to economic development and job creation, encourages healthy lifestyles, and provides transportation to jobs, schools, and medical appointments; and

WHEREAS, public transportation allows seniors, those with disabilities, and those without other means of transportation to remain independent; and

WHEREAS, public transportation provides personal mobility and freedom to people from every walk of life; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The department of transportation is directed to conduct or commission a comprehensive statewide needs assessment of public transportation in Tennessee. In conducting the assessment, the issues to be addressed shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The quantity and quality of existing transit service and its ability to meet the current and future demand for public transportation;
- (2) Demographic trends and travel patterns to determine how they will affect future demand for transit service;
- (3) The impact of public transportation on economic development and job creation; and

(4) A financial analysis of current and future funding needs to provide adequate public transportation services.

SECTION 2. This assessment shall be conducted with the department's existing resources.

SECTION 3. The department shall report its findings and any recommendations resulting from the study to the transportation committee of the house of representatives and the transportation and safety committee of the senate on or before February 1, 2016.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.