

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 145

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION urging government officials and transit authorities to study solutions for traffic congestion on interstates and highways before implementing any tax increase.

WHEREAS, the free movement of traffic through the interstate and major highway systems in Tennessee is necessary to the health, safety, and general welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, each year, the average commuter spends forty-two hours and \$1,400 on gas stopped in heavy traffic congestion due to all lanes being completely backed up for miles; and

WHEREAS, approximately eighty-three percent of commuters drive alone and rely on personal vehicles, without other options; and

WHEREAS, the reliance on personal motor vehicles by the traveling public causes serious traffic congestion near certain urban areas of Tennessee, and the inadequacy of roadway capacity and mobility has contributed to this congestion; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the best interests of commuters in Tennessee, who make daily round trips to and from work, to reduce this traffic congestion on Tennessee's interstate and major highway systems; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of violations of current high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane regulations and increased implementation of ridesharing, carpooling, and public transit services on Tennessee's interstate and major highway systems reduces and prevents traffic congestion, improves traffic flow, and increases highway efficiency; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby urges state and local government officials

and local and regional transit authorities to make reasonable efforts to study highway efficiency and mobility prior to imposing a tax increase, including demonstrating a greater commitment to enforcement of current HOV lane regulations in Tennessee, encouraging voluntary compliance with HOV lane regulations, and bringing awareness to the use of ridesharing services and carpooling programs that serve long-distance commuters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly urges such officials and authorities to exhaust all efforts to improve state, local, and regional traffic congestion across the State and to help manage traffic congestion along interstates and major highways prior to implementing a tax increase to support such efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly urges such officials and authorities to consult with private entities and to enter into public-private initiatives pursuant to the Public-Private Transportation Act of 2016, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 6, for solutions to allow a free-flowing commute for long-distance commuters in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.