

Transportation Funding Lockbox Amendment – DISCUSSION DRAFT

ARTICLE XXVIII.

Article third of the Constitution is amended by adding section 19 as follows:

Sec. 19a. The Special Transportation Fund shall remain a perpetual fund. The general assembly shall direct the resources of said fund solely for "transportation purposes" including but not limited to the payment of debt service on obligations of the state incurred for transportation purposes. "Transportation purposes" include expenditures for consulting and engineering services so designated by Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) as necessary for any such construction, expansion, and maintenance but does not include the salary and benefit costs for any employee of the state of Connecticut. All sources of "transportation revenues" including but not limited to funds, moneys and receipts of the state required to be credited, deposited or transferred to said fund by state law on or after the effective date of this amendment shall continue to be credited, deposited or transferred to the Special Transportation Fund, so long as such sources are collected or received by the state, or any officer thereof, and the general assembly shall enact no law authorizing the resources of said fund to be expended other than for transportation purposes.

b. No later than April 15, 2017 the general assembly shall by law define "transportation purposes" and "transportation revenues" for the purposes of this section. The enactment of such definitions shall require the vote of three-quarters of the members of each house of the general assembly. The general assembly may amend such definitions, from time to time. The amendment of such definitions shall require the vote of three-quarters of the members of each house of the general assembly.

c. To ensure the appropriate engagement of the citizens and private employers in the prioritization of such "transportation purposes", the governor and the general assembly, no later than April 15, 2017, shall establish an advisory body consisting of representatives of the private sector to provide guidance on transportation purposes, the projected capital and operating costs of transportation purposes, and recommended revenue sources to fund transportation purposes.

d. Original jurisdiction is vested in the Connecticut Supreme Court to be exercised on the petition of any registered voter of Connecticut whereby said court may compel the general assembly, by mandamus or otherwise, to perform its duties to define "transportation purposes" and "transportation revenues" for the purposes of this section and to establish the aforementioned advisory body. Said court may take such other action to effectuate the purposes of this article, including establishing definitions of "transportation purposes" and "transportation revenues" and establishing the aforementioned advisory body if the general assembly fails to define "transportation purposes" and "transportation revenues" and establish the aforementioned advisory body by the fifteenth day of April, 2017. Any such petition shall be filed within thirty days of the date specified. The Connecticut Supreme Court shall render its decision not later than thirty days following the filing of such petition. Upon receiving such decision the secretary shall publish the same forthwith, and, upon publication, such definitions of "transportation purposes" and "transportation revenues" and the establishment of the aforementioned advisory body shall have the full force of law.