

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 2332

House of Origin	Introduced	Substitute	Engrossed
Second House	In Committee	Substitute	X Enrolled

2. Patron Howell

3. Committee Passed both houses

4. Title Motor vehicle dealers; damages caused by statutory violations

5. Summary/Purpose:

Adds a new section to the code that authorizes the Commissioner of DMV, in a hearing under Va. Code §46.2-1573, to order a party found to have committed a statutory violation to pay a reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the complaining party.

6. No Fiscal Impact

7. Budget amendment necessary:

8. Fiscal implications: This bill would be expected to have little or no impact on the operations of DMV. The agency currently regulates and conducts hearings regarding certain issues or disputes between motor vehicle franchise dealers and manufacturers. Currently DMV conducts approximately 10 hearings annually on these matters. The legislation could slightly increase the annual number of hearings conducted by DMV if motor vehicle dealers became more inclined to pursue claims knowing that the Commissioner could order payment of attorney's fees and costs. However, the agency could absorb the cost of the additional hearings that might arise out of this legislation.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: DMV and affected motor vehicle dealers.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

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cc: Secretary of Transportation

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