

Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB408

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☒ Engrossed

Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Welch

3. Committee Senate Transportation

4. Title Use of steel plates in connection with highway repairs.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Requires that, prior to July, 15 2005, anyone using steel plates in connection with a temporary or permanent repair to the roadway of any highway shall apply a reflective substance to the plate in order to improve visibility to oncoming traffic. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any portion of a roadway that is closed to vehicular traffic. Prior to July 1, 2005, the Virginia Transportation Research Council shall undertake an examination of best practices regarding the improved visibility of steel plates and report its findings to the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Preliminary, see item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications:

This bill could have a financial impact on cities and towns who maintain their own roadways, as they often use steel plates on roadways as a regular course of business in their utility construction and maintenance.

According to the Department of Transportation (VDOT), the fiscal impact, if any, from this bill, may be minimal to the state. The department does not normally use steel plates in construction or maintenance. However, in emergencies, the department may allow a contractor to use steel plates. Given this, the potential cost to VDOT would be negligible.

A fiscal impact to VDOT may come from the cost of the research done by the Virginia Transportation Research Council. However, the cost of the study could be absorbed in the Research Council's budget.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: The Department of Transportation, and cities and town who maintain their own roads.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 02/17/04 / jlm

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cc: Secretary of Transportation