

Virginia Department of Transportation
2007 Fiscal Impact Statement (Regular Session)

1. Bill Number: HB 2228 Enr 1

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. Patron: Wardrup, L.

3. Committee: Passed both Houses

4. Title: Powers of the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner, entrance connections to highways, and comprehensive highway access management standards.

5. Summary/Purpose:

The Commissioner's authority for constructing, improving, and maintaining roads (§ 33.1-13) is amended to include the term "efficient operation", which references the concept of access management as a means for controlling the operation of a highway through the location, number, spacing, and design of entrances, median openings, turn lanes, traffic signals, etc.

§ 33.1-198 is amended so that standards for the location and design of commercial entrances to highways can be based on the characteristics of the highway for moving vehicles versus providing access to abutting land. This is the principal upon which access management is based. The Commissioner is granted the authority to require an entrance applicant to try to arrange to share such entrance with adjacent property owners. The goal is to reduce the number entrances on highways and promote internal connections between businesses.

NOTE: the enrolled version strikes a reference to the "Minimum Standards of Entrances to State Highways" which will be included in the "Land Use Permit Manual" and the "Road Design Manual".

A new Code section (§ 33.1-198.1) is proposed that provides a legislative grant of authority for the Commissioner to develop a comprehensive access management program for Virginia. The purpose and goals for the program are specified. The general access management standards to include in the program are listed.

§ 33.1-199 is amended to allow existing access points to a property to be modified during road construction to produce a safer highway, for example by removing existing, unnecessary, multiple entrances.

6. Fiscal Impacts are unavailable

7. Budget amendment necessary: NO

8. Fiscal implications: Department manpower and financial resources will have to be used to: develop a process to gain public input on the development of the access management program, design the elements of the access management program which may include elements that local governments can adopt, prepare a manual on the implementation of the

program, develop and deliver statewide training on the program to Department and local government staff, provide technical assistance to localities on access management standards/programs, amend the Land Use Permit Manual to add new entrance standards (e.g. location, design and spacing), and prepare and conduct training to Department staff on changes to Land Use Permit Manual. This workload will impact Central Office, District Planning, and Residency staff.

- 9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** VDOT and local governments that choose to adopt their own access management programs under VDOT guidance will be affected by this bill.

10. Technical amendment necessary: NO

11. Other comments: NO

Date: 02/23/2007

Revision Date: 02/23/2007

Document: filename here (H Document1)

cc: Secretary of Transportation