

State Corporation Commission 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2543

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Lingamfelter

3. Committee Committee on Commerce and Labor

4. Title Motor vehicle repair labor rates; survey; report.

5. Summary/Purpose: Adds § 38.2-515.1 requiring the State Corporation Commission to conduct a quarterly survey of automobile repair facilities that perform body repair work to determine median and average hourly labor charges and the difference between the amount paid for new and used parts and the amount charged to customers for the parts. The bill requires the Commission to survey a statistically valid sample of the operators as defined in § 59.1-207.2 on a calendar quarter basis, compile the information in a written report detailing the median and average rates for each of the nine Virginia Department of Transportation Regional Districts, as well as for the state as a whole. No specific automobile repair facility rate shall be identified. The Commission must make copies of the report available to the public upon request, and must provide access to copies of the report on the Bureau's internet website. The bill makes participation by the repair facilities voluntary and states that the Commission shall not be liable for the accuracy of information provided in the surveys. The bill prohibits disclosure of the identity of the respondents and states that the information collected shall be used solely for the purpose of compiling statistics required under the section. All information identifying a respondent or its rates collected under the section is deemed confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Finally, the bill states that no person shall be required to pay rates for body repair work based on the Commission's report.

6. Fiscal Impact: See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications: If asked to conduct these surveys, the State Corporation Commission Bureau of Insurance would perform the function with existing staff. Bureau staff cannot estimate a cost of performing this function since the agency has no information concerning the number of body shops in the Commonwealth, which would affect the number of surveys required, the staff hours involved and resulting mailing costs.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: State Corporation Commission Bureau of Insurance and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: The State Corporation Commission Bureau of Insurance has advised the patron that it has no regulatory authority or oversight responsibilities over body shops. With no expertise or specialized knowledge in this area, Bureau staff cannot evaluate the proposed methodology, its method of data compilation, or its statistical validity, or overall usefulness in achieving the purpose of the legislation.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has some regulatory oversight of automobile repair facilities under the Automobile Repair Facilities Act as set forth in § 59.1-207.1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.

Date: 01/15 /07 / V. Tompkins

cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade