

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB185

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

2. Patron: Marshall, R.G.

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: **Trucks and combination vehicles; Transportation Board to impose fee for use in maintaining highways.**

5. Summary: This bill requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board to impose a fee on trucks and combination vehicles for use in maintaining state highways. The Board is to calculate, impose, and collect a fee for damage done to highways by certain vehicles. The amount of the fee is to be based on the difference between the amount received annually by the Commonwealth from the federal government for highway maintenance and the annual cost to the Commonwealth of repairing damage done to the highways of the Commonwealth by vehicles subject to the fee. The amount of the fee and the method of payment are to be determined by the Board. The fee is to be imposed on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis, and no vehicle upon which a fee is assessed is to be operated on any highway of the Commonwealth if the fee is not paid in full on or before the date upon which payment of the fee is due.

6. Fiscal impact estimates: Indeterminate.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: This bill would add a new section to title 33.1 that directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board to impose a fee on every vehicle required to be weighed at weigh stations in Virginia. The fee amount is to be based on the difference between the amount of federal funding received annually for highway maintenance and the annual cost of repairing the highway damage caused by those vehicles subject to the fee. The fee amount and payment method are to be determined by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Required vehicles that fail to pay the fee may not operate on any Virginia Highway.

The fee established by this bill applies to every vehicle that is required to be weighed at a Virginia weigh station. Approximately 20 million vehicles are weighed at Virginia's 13 weigh stations annually. Absent an alternative procedure, this bill could require that each impacted vehicle stop at the required weigh station and enter the terminal to determine if the bill-mandated fee has been paid.

The bill is silent on the issue of collection but if the fee is required to be collected at the time the vehicle is weighed, Virginia's weighing program could be negatively impacted, as its success is wholly dependent on the efficient movement and flow of traffic through the weigh station. Collecting the fee at the weigh station could increase wait time at the weigh stations

as parking facilities at weigh stations can usually only accommodate between four and 15 vehicles (depending on the size of the facility and the vehicles) and a weigh station itself can generally only service two to three drivers at a time. Under this scenario, weigh stations could only open briefly to queue several vehicles and then close down for an extended period to process those vehicles (while vehicles that are required to be weighed either wait on the side of the road or pass through without being weighed).

In addition to the logistical challenges this bill could present, it does not link the amount of fee collected to the mileage traveled within Virginia or to the weight of the vehicle.

A one-time revision of information technology systems to implement this program at the Department of Motor Vehicles is estimated at \$42,930.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Motor Vehicles, Virginia Department of Transportation.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 1/15/2008/jlv

Document: G:\08-10\FIS\HB185.Doc Janet Vogelgesang

cc: Secretary of Transportation