

Virginia Department Of Transportation
2011 Fiscal Impact Statement (Regular Session)

1. Bill Number: SB 740

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Lucas, L.

3. Committee: Senate Committee on Transportation

4. Title: Close certain Hampton Roads area bridges during high winds

5. Summary/Purpose:

Require VDOT to close the Virginia Route 17 James River Bridge, the Monitor-Merrimac Bridge-Tunnel, the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, the Coleman Bridge and the Interstate 64 High Rise Bridge to motorcycles and mopeds whenever the facilities are subject to high winds.

6. Fiscal Impacts are unavailable

7. Budget amendment necessary: NO

8. Fiscal implications: The National Weather Service does not pinpoint wind speeds at each facility, only for the region. Therefore, VDOT would be required to install wind monitoring and recording equipment to comply with the legislation. The costs are estimated at \$2,000 for equipment and \$4,000 for installation of each station. Additionally, this would require full time staffing of the High Rise Bridge with a contractor to monitor winds, something that is not in place today. Costs for this requirement are estimated at \$170,000. Further costs should be expected for regulatory signs, Variable Message Signs (VMS) and messages, Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) system modifications, and for providing restricted vehicles the ability to safely stop and turn around. These further costs are presently unknown but are expected to be several hundred thousand dollars.

An additional unknown cost would be incurred in developing the technology, and implementation thereof, for a mechanism/barrier that would prohibit motorcycles and mopeds yet allow cars, trucks and other vehicles to traverse the named facilities. In lieu of a technology solution, costs would be incurred for manpower to be physically located to operate the restriction.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: VDOT-Hampton Roads, Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, local governments and police in the Hampton Roads area.

10. Technical amendment necessary: NO

11. Other comments: NO

Date: 12/30/2010

Revision Date: 01/06/2011

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cc: Secretary of Transportation