

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB209

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

2. Patron: Barker

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: HOV lanes; use by vehicle with clean special fuel license plates.

- 5. Summary:** The proposed legislation would remove the sunset provision associated with the occupancy exemption on certain high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes for vehicles bearing clean special fuel vehicle license plates provided the use of the vehicles is in compliance with federal law. The current occupancy exemption is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2012. The bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to annually report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on the traffic volumes on HOV facilities that result in degraded condition. The chairmen of the committees are to use the information to recommend further restrictions on clean special fuel vehicles using the HOV facilities.

The occupancy exemption authorizes such vehicles to use HOV lanes without meeting the required number of passengers. Section 46.2-749.3, Code of Virginia, limits the exemption on the I-95/395 corridor to those vehicles with clean special fuel vehicle plates which were issued prior to July 1, 2006.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** House Bill 1248, passed in the 2006 General Assembly session, directed a portion of each clean special fuel license plate registration, after the first thousand issued, to the Virginia State Police for HOV lane enforcement. The State Police received \$326,895 from the registrations in FY 2011. Many of the vehicles in Virginia registered as clean special fuel vehicles are hybrid electric vehicles owned by Northern Virginia residents who utilize the HOV lanes. If the HOV lane exemption for clean special fuel vehicles ended, there would likely be a decrease in the number of special fuel license plates issued and a decrease in the amount of funding provided to the State Police.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia State Police

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: Similar to HB85 S1.

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