

## Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB 225

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

**2. Patron:**        Senator Petersen

**3. Committee:** Transportation

**4. Title:**        Establishes a traffic infraction and fine for unreasonably opening motor vehicle doors.

**5. Summary:** Imposes a fine of not more than \$50 and traffic infraction for violating the legislation's provision that persons shall not open the door of a motor vehicle on the side adjacent to moving traffic except when it is reasonably safe to do so.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See section 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation could result in additional revenues from the new fine applied to this traffic infraction. It is impossible to determine the magnitude of the potential impact because there is no data on the amount of accidents occurring from car doors. Any revenue collected would be deposited in the Literary Fund, except if a citation is written against an identical local ordinance, in which case the revenue would belong to the locality.

The average annual number of bicycle crashes between 2008 to 2012 was 711 according to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Though it is unlikely that all of the reported bicycle crashes involved a motor vehicle door, this data provides a basis to estimate a range of revenue from the legislation of \$0 to \$35,550 per year from incidents involving bicycles and motor vehicle doors alone. However, the legislation could impact incidents involving pedestrians and other motor vehicles, in addition to bicycles, the amount of which cannot be estimated.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia's judicial system; law enforcement agencies.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** Suggest deleting "and closing" from line 5 due to the fact that the legislation has no impact on the act of closing motor vehicle doors.

**11. Other Comments:** None.