

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2332

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: Habeeb

3. Committee: House Transportation

4. Title: Roadside safety devices; radio-frequency identification chips.

5. Summary: Beginning July 1, 2015, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) must require radio-frequency identification (RFID) chips on "certain roadside safety devices" and on "all proprietary highway safety hardware" used in highway construction or maintenance projects that receive state funds. The bill requires law-enforcement vehicles to read and upload crash data from RFID chips, automatically transmit accident reports to the product manufacturer, Federal Highway Administration, VDOT and the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. By December 1, 2015, VDOT is required adopt regulations to effectuate the provisions of the bill, as well as submit a report to the General Assembly on the progress of the RFID installation.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: According to VDOT, the fiscal impacts of this bill cannot be determined at this time due to the uncertain designation of "roadside safety devices" and "proprietary highway safety hardware," which are not defined by the bill and which could have impacts to guardrails, end treatments, barriers, sign posts, bridge railings, and other safety-related items.

On guardrail and end treatment assets alone, VDOT has approximately 7,000 miles of guardrail and 150,000 end treatments. The installation of RFID chips and associated readers, software, and upgrading of existing equipment could cost in the millions of dollars, in addition to administrative fiscal costs for program management.

On projects already awarded or out to bid in the next 6 months, adding the cost to furnish and install a specific RFID chip would require negotiation with the low-bid contractor for a work order on all projects where the devices would begin installation July 1, 2015 or after.

The ongoing staff and life-cycle maintenance costs of the RFID and software systems are unknown without further evaluation.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: VDOT, Virginia State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, Virginia Information Technologies Agency, local law enforcement, toll agencies and local governments that maintain their own roads.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None