

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB885

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
 Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Sickles**3. Committee:** Transportation**4. Title:** Speeding; reckless driving.

5. Summary: Raises the threshold for per se reckless driving for speeding from driving in excess of 80 miles per hour to driving in excess of 85 miles per hour if the applicable speed limit is in excess of 65 miles per hour. The threshold for per se reckless driving for speeding for driving at or more than 20 miles per hour in excess of the speed limit remains unchanged.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This a revised statement to include additional information from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Reckless driving is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500. It is possible this bill could reduce the number of people sentenced to local or regional jails, but any potential impact is indeterminate at this time. It is also possible that this bill could reduce the amount of fines deposited into the Literary Fund. It is not feasible to determine the impact to revenue that would be deposited into the Literary Fund as a result of the provisions of this legislation.

VDOT previously installed signs where the speed limit is 70 miles per hour that indicate 80 miles per hour as the limit for reckless driving. This was done by VDOT as a public service to raise awareness of the law and to thereby improve public safety. If this bill passes, VDOT would need to either replace or remove approximately 12 signs on interstates where the speed limit is 70 mph that currently indicate 80 mph as the limit for reckless driving. The cost of replacing the signs to indicate the new limit for reckless driving would be approximately \$3,100 per sign, for a total estimated cost of \$37,200. The cost of simply removing the signs would be approximately \$800 per sign, for a total estimated cost of \$9,600. VDOT has not made any determination as to the effectiveness of the signs. These costs would have to be covered by VDOT redirecting existing resources from other priorities.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of State Police, local law enforcement, local and regional jails, Virginia Department of Transportation

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to SB63.