

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB687

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

2. Patron: Vogel

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Bicycles; signage and road markings.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of Transportation to erect and maintain signs in high pedestrian, Segway, bicycle, moped, animal, and animal-drawn vehicle traffic volume areas that say "Share the Road" and that note existing law requiring passing motor vehicles to pass at least three feet to the left of such vehicles. The bill's second enactment clause provides that the provisions of the bill would not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of the bill is included in the 2020 Appropriation Act passed by the General Assembly.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 448. A language amendment or general fund support would be needed to address the requirements of the bill's second enactment.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill would require the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to erect and maintain signs on portions of highways that VDOT determines to have high pedestrian, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, animal, or animal-drawn vehicle traffic volume.

VDOT currently maintains a number of warning signs for existing slow-moving road users, pedestrian/schoolchildren, and animals, including crosswalks that are marked with pedestrian/schoolchildren warnings. Based on VDOT's most recent comprehensive statewide inventory, the Department estimates there are approximately 2,200 of these signs throughout the Commonwealth on VDOT rights of way. It is estimated that the cost to update, add to, or replace these existing signs with signage indicating "Share the Road" and the other information required by the bill would be approximately \$1,100 per sign; the total cost for this would be \$2.42 million.

It is likely that VDOT would determine that additional areas would require warning signs beyond those with existing signs given that the bill includes additional categories of users beyond those covered by VDOT's current signage. Each additional sign needed is estimated to cost \$1,100; however the total number or size of additional areas where warning and "Share the Road" signage, and the total number of new signs required, is indeterminate. As a result, the total cost for this legislation is indeterminate.

The Department relies on revenues generated for highway maintenance operations, which are fully appropriated in the 2020 Budget Bill (HB30/SB30). The requirement to pay for any specific signage would either have to be covered within the Department's estimated revenues, where an increase in appropriation would not be needed, or through the provision of general fund support for this effort. Therefore, if the General Assembly desired to include an appropriation for the purposes of this bill, either a language amendment would be needed to make a specific allocation of existing transportation funds for the provision of the proposed signs or a general fund appropriation dedicated to installing these signs would be needed. If general fund support is not provided, these costs would have to be covered by VDOT redirecting existing resources from other priorities as all of its revenues are already appropriated and committed.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.