

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2261

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

2. Patron: Wyatt

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Special license plates; member of the Virginia National Guard.

5. Summary: This bill removes the fee for the issuance of special license plates to a member of the Virginia National Guard. Current law provides that such special license plates are issued at half the prescribed cost of state license plates. The bill does not change the fee for personalized special license plates.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The General Assembly has previously granted full-fee exemptions from annual registration and license plate fees to recipients of the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, certain Disabled Veterans, and former Prisoners of War. This legislation would also exempt Virginia National Guard service members from paying annual registration and license plate fees for National Guard plates.

There are currently 2,030 active sets of National Guard plates in use in Virginia; however, because the current fee for the plates is one-half of standard registration fees, and because of how vehicle records are kept, the number of those plates that are second sets cannot be determined nor the total loss of revenue estimated.

Assuming each active National Guard plate is currently charged one-half of the standard registration fee for passenger cars, the current registrations account for a total of \$31,211 in registration fees. The bill would eliminate these fees for many registrations; however, second sets would have their fees doubled (from the current one-half to full), offsetting a portion of those revenues that are lost. Individual Guard members with two sets of plates would not see any benefit from this bill, as they currently pay two separate one-half fees, which would be replaced by a single full fee for the second set. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) does not issue more than two sets of plates to any one Guard member.

Annual vehicle registration fees support statewide transportation funding, certain emergency medical services programs, Virginia State Police's vehicle safety inspection program, and DMV operations.

This bill will require system programming changes costing \$9,247. The 128 staff hours required to implement this legislation can be accomplished during the normal work schedules for DMV employees, given current workloads.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Motor Vehicles, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia State Police.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.