

## Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB552

House of Origin	<u>  X  </u>	Introduced	<u>    </u>	Substitute	<u>    </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u>    </u>	In Committee	<u>    </u>	Substitute	<u>    </u>	Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Barker

**3. Committee:** Senate Transportation

**4. Title:** HOV lanes.

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation would extend the occupancy exemption on certain high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes for vehicles bearing clean special fuel vehicle license plates to July 1, 2011, provided such vehicles are not traveling on I-66, I-95, or I-395. The current occupancy exemption is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2010. The exemption authorizes such vehicles to use HOV lanes without meeting the required number of passengers.

Section 46.2-749.3, Code of Virginia, limits the exemption on the I-95\395 corridor to those vehicles with clean special fuel vehicle plates which were issued prior to July 1, 2006. This bill would apply the limit to all clean special fuel plate vehicles and extend the limit to I-66.

Vehicles bearing the clean special fuel license plates would be exempt from the occupancy provisions on HOV lanes on the Dulles Toll Road in Northern Virginia and HOV lanes on I-64 and I-264 in Hampton Roads.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** None.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** House Bill 1248, passed in the 2006 General Assembly session, directed a portion of each clean special fuel license plate registration, after the first thousand issued, to the Virginia State Police for HOV lane enforcement. The State Police received \$293,955 from the registrations last year.

Many of the vehicles in Virginia registered as clean special fuel vehicles are hybrid electric vehicles owned by Northern Virginia residents who utilize the HOV lanes. The prohibition on I-95/395 and I-66 may cause a decrease in the number of special fuel license plates issued and a decrease the amount of funding provided to the State Police.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia State Police, Department of Transportation

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

**11. Other Comments:** Similar to HB 214.

Federal authorization which allows the exemption of low emission and energy efficient vehicles in HOV lanes is set to expire on February 28, 2010. This bill extends the state's sunset clause of the exemption beyond that date.

**Date:** 2/5/2010 dpb/smc

**Document:** G:\GA\FIS 2010\SB552.doc