

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB531

**House of Origin**     Introduced       Substitute       Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute       Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Marsden

**3. Committee:** Passed both houses.

**4. Title:** Northern Virginia Transportation District; Long-range planning.

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation requires the Department of Transportation (VDOT), in coordination with the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, to evaluate all significant transportation projects in and near the Northern Virginia Transportation District, including both highway and transit projects. The legislation mandates the evaluation to include at least 25 highway and mass transit projects, without regard to funding source, from specified Northern Virginia transportation plans.

The evaluation is to provide an objective, quantitative rating for each project according to the degree to which the project will reduce congestion and improve regional mobility in the event of a homeland security emergency. VDOT is to publicize the ratings determined for each project on its website and complete the evaluation at least once every four years, with interim progress reports provided on the website at least once every six months starting January 1, 2013.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** None.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation would require the evaluation of transportation projects in Northern Virginia through the use of operational and planning modeling as well as through consultation with local and regional officials. The costs related to the evaluation cannot be accurately identified at this time. A tentative estimate of the fiscal impact can be determined based on VDOT's experience with other evaluations that, while similar in approach, are smaller in scope. VDOT's I-66 multimodal planning study has a budget of \$2.5 million. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Transaction 2030 planning study cost nearly \$1.0 million.

Based on those studies, VDOT estimates that the initial evaluation and rating specified by this legislation could cost up to \$3 million and take approximately 24 months to conduct. Subsequent evaluations conducted every four years would cost approximately \$1.5 million.

However, some aspects of the analyses to be conducted under this legislation, though less expansive in scope, are currently under development by VDOT and budgeted for implementation. The cost of the additional activities associated with this legislation can be absorbed utilizing existing funding sources available to the agency, although a reprioritization of funding may be required.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Commonwealth Transportation Board, Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, local governments in Northern Virginia

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

**11. Other Comments:** Identical to HB 599.

**Date:** 3/15/2012 dpb/smc

**Document:** G:\GA\FIS 2012\SB531ER.doc