

## Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB 225

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

**2. Patron:** Senator Petersen

**3. Committee:** Transportation

**4. Title:** Establishes a traffic infraction and fine for unreasonably opening motor vehicle doors.

**5. Summary:** Imposes a fine of not more than \$100 and traffic infraction for violating the legislation's provision that persons shall not open the door of a motor vehicle on the side adjacent to moving traffic except when it is reasonably safe to do so.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See section 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation could result in additional revenues from the new fine applied to this traffic infraction. However, it is impossible to determine the magnitude of the potential impact because there is no data available on the amount of accidents occurring from car doors. Any revenue collected would be deposited in the Literary Fund, except if a citation is written against an identical local ordinance, in which case the revenue would belong to the locality.

The Department of Motor Vehicles reports data on bicycle crashes from the years 2008 to 2012. There were 804 bicycle crashes reported in 2012. The average annual amount of bicycle crashes in the five years was 711. Though it is unlikely that all of the reported bicycle crashes involved a motor vehicle door, this number provides a basis to estimate a range of revenue from the legislation of \$0 to \$71,100 per year from incidents involving bicycles and motor vehicle doors alone. However, the legislation could impact incidents involving pedestrians and other motor vehicles in addition to bicycles, the amount of which cannot be estimated.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia's judicial system; law enforcement agencies.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** Suggest deleting "and closing" from line 5 due to the fact that the legislation has no impact on the act of closing motor vehicle doors.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

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C: Secretary of Education