

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 73

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

2. Patron: O'Bannon

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Driving while texting; fines.

5. Summary: Increases the fines for texting while driving from \$125 to \$250 for a first offense and from \$250 to \$500 for a second or subsequent offense.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation could result in additional revenues to the Commonwealth's Literary Fund by increasing the amount of an existing fine applied to traffic infractions under section 46.2-1078.1 of the Code of Virginia. According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, 1,430 people in 2015, 1,688 in 2014, and 1,016 in 2013, were convicted of a violation of this section. If it is assumed that convictions will remain at at least the average of the past three years, it is estimated that 1,378 convictions per year will occur in the future. Using the more conservative assumption that all new convictions would be first time offenses, this bill would generate an additional \$172,250 in annual revenues for the Commonwealth's Literary Fund.

Any fines collected by localities under a similar local ordinance would belong to those localities. Local collections should not affect the above estimate, which was based only on state conviction rates.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.