

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB139

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: Edwards

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Issuance of original driver's licenses to minors.

5. Summary: This bill authorizes the chief juvenile and domestic relations district court judge to waive the ceremonial requirements for the issuance within the district of original driver's licenses to minors.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is required to forward all original driver's licenses that are to be issued to minors to the judge of the juvenile and domestic relations court in the city or county in which the minor resides. The judge issues the driver's licenses to the licensees at a formal ceremony, which is designed to impress upon the licensees the responsibility of the privilege of driving a motor vehicle.

At the onset of the pandemic, the Supreme Court of Virginia declared a judicial state of emergency on March 12, 2020. At that time, the juvenile licensing ceremonies were delayed. The judicial state of emergency has been extended multiple times and the current order is in effect until January 26, 2022. Since that time, a budget provision has allowed a chief judge to waive the ceremonial requirements or to conduct the ceremony in an alternative manner during a declared judicial state of emergency and for up to 90 days after the declaration ends. The judge may also decide to mail or deliver the driver's licenses to the minors or to coordinate with DMV to do so.

This bill allows for a version of this option to be available to chief juvenile and domestic district court judges all of the time, not just during declared judicial states of emergency. Specifically, the bill would allow chief judges to waive the ceremonial requirements for each court within their district. While the cost of mailing driver's licenses to each licensee will be marginally more than mailing licenses in bulk to the courts, DMV has been operating under these provisions since the 2020 General Assembly Special Session's budget went into effect, and a significant impact is not anticipated from the bill.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Motor Vehicles, Juvenile and Domestic Relations district courts.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB 852.