

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB21

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

**2. Patron:** Jones

**3. Committee:** Transportation

**4. Title:** School crossing zones; expands definition of zones to include areas surrounding schools, etc.

**5. Summary:** Expands the definition of "school crossing zone" to include areas surrounding schools where the presence of students reasonably requires a special warning to motorists and provides that the term "school" includes public institutions of higher education and nonprofit private institutions of higher education. Currently, the definition of "school crossing zone" includes only areas surrounding schools where the presence of children requires such warning. Existing provisions of law allowing photo speed monitoring devices to be installed in school crossing zones will apply to any location that meets the expanded definition.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Under the expanded definition of "school" in this bill, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) would be required to install signs and markings on state-maintained highways within areas of institutions of higher education where a school crossing zone is established. There are 62.5 miles of primary state highways within public institutions of higher education where VDOT may potentially be required to consider and implement a school crossing zone. VDOT does not have similar data for private institutions of higher education. The extent of impacted state-maintained highways is unknown as the bill does not require that a school crossing zone be established.

According to VDOT, in order to establish a school crossing zone on a state-maintained highway, an engineering review/study of the proposed school crossing zone area and a total of up to 13 signs are required covering each travel direction, including two school flasher assemblies and other necessary signs at a total cost up to \$36,500 per zone. Under current practice, the authorizing authority is responsible for the portion of costs pertaining to the signs for the school crossing zone speed limit and would also be responsible for the costs to maintain and operate the two flasher sign assemblies. VDOT would be responsible for the remainder of the total cost for the school crossing zone for other signs pertaining to the school crossing zone and the engineering study/review. VDOT relies on revenues generated

for highway maintenance operations, which are fully appropriated in the 2024 Budget Bill (HB30/SB30). Therefore, additional appropriation is not needed. VDOT would have to cover the costs associated with this legislation by redirecting resources from other priorities.

The bill provides that the establishment of any school crossing zones is optional for institutions of higher education. As a result, the fiscal impact to those institutions is indeterminate.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Transportation, institutions of higher education

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is identical to HB1072 and SB535.