

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2024 General Assembly Session | 1/23/24

In accordance with the provisions of 30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of legislation impacting local governments.

HB 21: School crossing zones; expands definition of zones to include areas surrounding schools, etc. (Patron: Del. Michael J. Jones)

Bill 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.

Local Fiscal Impact: Net Additional Expenditure: X Net Reduction of Revenues:

Summary Analysis:

Number of Localities Responding: 3 Cities, 6 Counties, 4 Towns, 1 Other

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 to \$100,000 over the biennium.

Localities indicated that this bill does not create a fiscal impact for counties and is unlikely to have a fiscal impact on cities and towns because of 1) the location of public institutions of higher education in areas that do not reasonably require special warnings and 2) the ability of these institutions to decline to establish the school crossing zone. Therefore, most localities did not note a fiscal impact.

One City noted ongoing expenses related to equipment and sending bills and notices.

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Juris	Recurring Expense- Personnel		Recurring Expense - Operating		Recurring Expense - Capital		Recurring Expense - Other	
		FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26
Bedford	County								
Charlotte County	County								
City of Alexandria	City								
City of Harrisonburg	City								
Lynchburg	City			50000	50000				
Mecklenburg County	County								
Montgomery County	County								
Northern Neck PDC	Other								
Prince George County	County								
Rappahannock County	County								
Town of Chincoteague	Town								
Town of Christiansburg	Town								
Town of Marion	Town								
Town of Victoria	Town								

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Nonrecurring Expense - Operating		Nonrecurring Expense - Capital		Nonrecurring Expense - Other		Total Increase in Expenses (Biennium Total)
	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26	
Bedford							0
Charlotte County							0
City of Alexandria							0
City of Harrisonburg							0
Lynchburg							100,000
Mecklenburg County							0
Montgomery County							0
Northern Neck PDC							0
Prince George County							0
Rappahannock County							0
Town of Chincoteague							0
Town of Christiansburg							0
Town of Marion							0
Town of Victoria							

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Bedford	
Charlotte County	
City of Alexandria	There is no anticipated fiscal impact of this bill.
City of Harrisonburg	The proposed legislation would likely not result in a direct increase in expenditures for the City as it gives the institution of higher education the ability to decline the establishment of these zones. Any cost impacts would be for the outlay of signs and pavement markings, if the institution chose to establish the zones.
Lynchburg	Cost of purchase and installation of photo speed monitoring devices and also the cost of sending notices and bills.
Mecklenburg County	The only institute of higher education located in the County is in a town where the speed limit is already 25 MPH.
Montgomery County	The Higher Education Institute(s) in Montgomery County fall within Town limits. This responsibility would fall to the Town and/or VDOT and would have no fiscal impact on the County.
Northern Neck PDC	Traffic issues are not the domain of PDCs.
Prince George County	Adequate signage already exists at our crossings currently. The school division has indicated there would be no increase in expenditures. The County does not currently use photo speed monitoring devices.
Rappahannock County	
Town of Chincoteague	
Town of Christiansburg	While I would interpret this to allow the Town to designate a new school zone at the New River Community College site, I do not think we would do so as there is a pedestrian bridge present and directly crossing the highway would not be needed. Additionally, the community college is in a heavily commercial area that is served by transit but would not have much anticipated residential foot traffic.
Town of Marion	
Town of Victoria	