

# 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.

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**HB 532: Transportation project; prohibits initiation of project in an established school crossing zone, etc. (Patron: Del. Holly M. Seibold)**

**Bill Summary:** Prohibits the initiation of any transportation project in an established school crossing zone unless a pedestrian safety-focused road safety audit is conducted and its recommendations are incorporated into the project plan. The bill requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board, in administering the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program, to prioritize infrastructure projects that address a hazardous road location or feature or address an identified highway safety problem located in a school crossing zone.

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

### Summary Analysis:

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

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 to \$ 10,000 over the biennium.

Some counties indicated that this bill will have no fiscal impact on counties.

While most other localities did not identify an immediate impact over the biennium, many indicated this is because they do not have any pending construction projects that would be affected by this bill. Estimates for the cost of a study required by the bill localities were described as “significant”. One city estimated \$50,000 per study and \$10,000 to \$10 million per recommended improvement.

# **Commission on Local Government**



**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 Richmond							0
City of Winchester							0
Lynchburg							0
Mecklenburg County							0
Montgomery County							0
Northern Neck PDC							0
Prince George County							0
Rappahannock County							0
Town of Chincoteague							10,000
Town of Christiansburg							0
Town of Marion							0

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Bedford	
Charlotte County	
City of Alexandria	This bill would result in no code changes or fiscal impact, but if future studies are required there could be an impact but that specific amount is unquantifiable at this time.
City of Richmond	The City of Richmond anticipates a recurring expenditure increase. Currently without further information an estimate for the fiscal impact amount cannot be determined. The city can state that for each required Roadway Safety Audit, it will cost \$50,000. Each recommended improvement it could cost between \$10,000 to \$10 million depending on the type of improvement that is mandated from the RSA. Less work may be occurring in school crossing zones as a result. School crossing zone definitions are proposed to change under other General Assembly action that is ongoing which may potentially expand the potential locations where this legislation would be applicable.
City of Winchester	
Lynchburg	The cost of the safety audit would have to be funded by the City.
Mecklenburg County	There would be a cost to the bill if we encountered the specific situation depicted in the bill, but it is unlikely that will occur, therefore the actual impact will be 0.
Montgomery County	The County does not do Transportation projects. We work with VDOT. Thus, this would have no fiscal impact on the County.
Northern Neck PDC	No fiscal impact to PDCs.
Prince George County	No impact.
Rappahannock County	While there would be no cost for Rappahannock County and counties in general, VDOT and the state would experience additional costs.
Town of Chincoteague	
Town of Christiansburg	I would not anticipate any expenditures associated with this in the next two years as the Town of Christiansburg does not have a pending school crossing project, but it could likely add significantly to costs of such projects (probably tens of thousands per project).
Town of Marion	