

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2025 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB2159 **Patron:** Carr  
**Bill Title:** School crossing zones; institutions of higher education.

**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. The existing provisions of law allowing photo speed monitoring devices to be installed in school crossing zones will apply to any location that meets such expanded definition.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No **Items Impacted:** None

**Explanation:** This bill impacts public and nonprofit private institutions of higher education (IHEs), and their fiscal impact is indeterminate at this time but likely absorbable. The bill requires the costs for the Virginia Department of Transportation to establish, install, maintain, and operate the school crossing zones to be supported by the IHEs.

**Fiscal Summary:** Under the expanded definition of "school" in this bill, the governing body of public and nonprofit private IHEs are permitted to establish school crossing zones. The bill requires the IHEs to pay all costs to establish, install, maintain, and operate the school crossing zones. Because the establishment of these school zones is optional for IHEs, the fiscal impact is anticipated to be absorbable at this time.

According to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in order to establish a school crossing zone on a state-maintained highway, associated costs are estimated as follows. An engineering review and study of a proposed school crossing zone area, and a total of up to 13 signs covering each travel direction may be required. This estimate includes two school flasher assemblies and other necessary signs at a total cost up to \$36,500 per zone (\$5,000 for the engineering study; 11 signs x \$1,500 per static sign; \$7,500 x 2 flasher assemblies). An additional \$3,000 (2 additional signs at \$1,500 per sign) would be required for signage at each school crossing zone where automated speed enforcement is established. Lastly, there are costs associated with maintaining and operating the two flasher sign assemblies. The provisions of this bill allow various methods of identifying school crossing zones, so overall fiscal impact is indeterminate for public and nonprofit private IHEs at this time.

**Other:** This fiscal impact statement is preliminary and based on feedback from public and nonprofit private IHEs as of the date of publication. This bill is identical to SB1491.