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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1200**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 33.2-274.2, relating to Department of*
5 *Transportation; protective caps for guardrail posts; report.*

6 Patron—Williams

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 33.2-274.2 as follows:**10 **§ 33.2-274.2. Protective caps for guardrail posts; report.**

11 The Department shall develop, adopt, and implement statewide standards and requirements for protective
12 caps or other comparable shielding for exposed guardrail posts installed or replaced on or after July 1,
13 2027. In developing such standards and requirements, the Department shall evaluate commercially available
14 protective caps or other comparable shielding for exposed guardrail posts and set minimum impact-
15 attenuation criteria for such protective caps or other comparable shielding. Once adopted, the Department
16 shall incorporate such standards and requirements into the Department's Road and Bridge Standards. Such
17 standards and requirements shall apply to new installations of guardrail posts and any repair of guardrail
18 posts requiring the removal and resetting of such guardrail posts.

19 The Department may apply for any additional grants for funds, as the Department determines may be
20 necessary to supplement any existing state or federal funds that the Department is currently permitted by law
21 to use for the development, adoption, and implementation of such standards and requirements and, once such
22 standards and requirements are implemented, for the installation or replacement of protective caps or other
23 comparable shielding for exposed guardrail posts.

24 The Department shall publish an annual report on the implementation of such standards and
25 requirements, including the number of protective caps or other comparable shielding installed, no later than
26 December 1.

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