

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB731

Patron: Leftwich

Bill Title: Free use of toll facilities; certain disabled veterans.

Bill Summary: Authorizes the free use of all toll bridges, toll roads, and other toll facilities in the Commonwealth for drivers who have been rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability. The bill also replaces the current window sticker for certain persons exempted from tolls due to a disability with a specialized electronic toll collection device identifying such person as eligible for free passage.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: It is estimated that this legislation could reduce revenues for tolling facilities across the Commonwealth; however, the total reduction in revenues and the distribution of this impact between private and VDOT toll facilities is indeterminate. Reductions in revenues may also impact maintenance operations, toll rates, debt service payments, or require compensation to private toll facility operators.

Fiscal Analysis: In 2023, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reported that there were 243,174 veterans receiving disability compensation in Virginia but does not provide Virginia-specific data on the number of those veterans considered 100 percent disabled. However, in September 2025, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reported that overall 29 percent of veterans receiving VA disability compensation were considered 100 percent disabled. Assuming the veteran population in Virginia mirrors the nationwide population, there are an estimated 70,520 veterans who are considered 100 percent disabled and may qualify for the free use of toll facilities described in this legislation. This would result in a reduction in toll revenue collected by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). However, the distribution of this population relative to toll facility locations in the Commonwealth and their utilization of toll facilities is unknown. As a result, estimates for the amount of the reduction in toll revenues is indeterminate.

Overall, reductions in toll revenues would impact both VDOT and private toll facilities. There are 17 toll facilities in the Commonwealth, five of which are operated by private concessionaires pursuant to a Comprehensive Agreement with VDOT. Reductions in toll revenues for publicly operated facilities may impact toll rates, maintenance operations, and debt service payments for those facilities. Reductions in toll revenues experienced by operators of private toll facilities due to changes in law risks obligating VDOT to provide compensation to the operators under their contractual terms. Any potential required compensation is indeterminate.

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Additionally, the construction and operation of the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) facilities on certain highways in the Commonwealth are subject to agreements with the operators and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Significant reductions in revenues may impact those agreements.

VDOT may also incur costs associated with processing, verifying, and approving applications for this program and the distribution of the associated specialized electronic toll collection device. Such costs are currently indeterminate.

Other: HB1399 also addresses tolling charges.