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

PUBLISHED: 3/4/2026 3:58 PM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB88ER **Patron:** Laufer
Bill Title: Highway rights-of-way; invasive species.

Bill Summary: Prohibits the Commonwealth Transportation Board (Board) and Commissioner of Highways from planting or causing or suffering to be planted any invasive plant on the list of invasive plants created by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on the right-of-way of any state highway. Current law prohibits the planting of three listed plants if the governing body of the locality declares such weeds or plants to be injurious and requires the Board to remove such plants. The bill removes such requirement for the Board to remove such plants. The bill requires the Department of Transportation to conduct a review, in coordination with DCR, of the processes and resources that are necessary and appropriate to determine the prevalence of invasive plants on state highway rights-of-way and develop options for the removal, control, or management of such plants and submit a report of its findings to the Chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, and the House and Senate Committees on Transportation no later than December 1, 2027.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that this will not have a state fiscal impact to the Virginia Department of Transportation. The Department of Conservation and Recreation did not provide feedback.

Fiscal Analysis: None

Other: None