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

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Bill Number: SB95ER **Patron:** Roem
Bill Title: Rest area signage; adds human trafficking information.

Bill Summary: Adds information about human trafficking and how to self-identify the signs of human trafficking to the notice required to be posted by the Department of Transportation at all rest areas along any interstate highway. Additionally, requires such notice to include a QR code or website address directing individuals to a secure, multilingual digital human trafficking identification and reporting platform, and requires the Office of the Attorney General to approve and certify certain information about such platform. Current law requires the Department to post notice of the existence of a human trafficking hotline.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: Any costs associated with procuring, purchasing access to, or hosting the digital platform are indeterminate. If the Office of the Attorney General is responsible for supporting any such costs, additional general fund appropriation may be required.

Fiscal Summary: The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), as required in exiting law, maintains signage that defines human trafficking and includes information on cues to look for when identifying human trafficking. VDOT anticipates that the costs of updating the signage could be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill would require the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to approve of a digital human trafficking identification and reporting platform to which the signs posted by VDOT at all rest stops would direct travelers. OAG also has to certify that the platform offers: anonymous reporting, provides access through the internet or mobile device via text or voice, and routes credible tips in real time to the appropriate law-enforcement and victim-services agencies. The costs of such review are indeterminate.

The bill does not specify which of the agencies would be responsible for procuring or purchasing access to any digital reporting platform that meets the requirements of the bill. The costs for purchase or subscription fees that may be associated with such platform are unknown. If VDOT is required to purchase access to the platform, it would need to be done by redirecting resources from other activities. If this was the responsibility of the OAG, additional general fund appropriation may be needed.

Fiscal Analysis: None

Other: None