

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

The bill makes various changes to the requirements for the use of photo speed monitoring devices, including the use of funds from collected civil penalties, signage, data retention and storage, photo speed monitoring device calibration, making certain information available to the public, and reporting.

The proposal provides civil penalties collected under this section resulting from a summons issued by a local law-enforcement officer or retired sworn law-enforcement officer employed by a locality are to be paid to the locality in which such violation occurred to be used for its photo speed monitoring device program. This proposal also adds that any funds in excess of those allocated for such purposes shall be deposited in a local fund used solely for planning, design and construction, implementation, administration, and operation of initiatives, projects, or programs that improve traffic safety, speed management, bicycle and pedestrian safety, public transit, and local systemic safety initiatives otherwise eligible for funding through the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program, but that any such excess funds shall first be used for such purposes in highway work zones, high-risk intersection segments, school crossing zones, or safety red zones prior to being used for such purposes in any other area. The impact of this change on localities is indeterminate.

The bill allows for civil penalties collected resulting from a summons issued after July 1, 2026, by a law-enforcement officer or retired sworn law-enforcement officer employed by the Department of State Police (VSP) are to be paid to the Department of State Police to be deposited in a fund used solely for the payment of the agreed-upon compensation and actual program costs incurred by VSP in placing and operating such speed safety cameras, except that any excess moneys in such fund shall be paid to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to be used for the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program. Current law states that civil penalties collected resulting from a summons issued by a law-enforcement officer or retired sworn law-enforcement officer employed by VSP are paid to the Literary Fund. It is indeterminate the amount of additional revenue this change will generate for VSP and the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Entities must obtain a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) land use permit for any signs or devices placed within VDOT right-of-way. VDOT incurs costs in processing these permit applications and charges fees per permit to offset such costs. Permit fee revenue collected by VDOT and any costs not offset by the fees is indeterminate. VDOT will incur some cost to meet the bill's requirement for the Commissioner of Highways to establish criteria for designating highway segments as high-risk pedestrian corridors to identify safety red zones. However, this cost should be minimal since the Department already conducts extensive analysis in this area.

Other: None.