

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1216 (Delegate Kach, et al.)
Appropriations

**Mass Transit Administration - Light Rail Transit - Purchase of Interconnecting
Cars**

This bill requires the Mass Transit Administration (MTA) to purchase light rail cars that connect with other light rail cars in a manner that allows security to move freely between cars. The bill is effective July 1, 1996 and applies to cars ordered after January 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate but potentially significant increase in special fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The MTA currently has 35 light rail cars and has ordered an additional 18 cars for planned extensions. The existing fleet, including the cars on order, do not provide for movement between cars while the train is in motion.

Other than those currently on order, the MTA does not have plans for the purchase of additional cars. The MTA advises that no manufacturers currently construct light rail cars that satisfy the movement requirements of this bill. Thus, a comparison of the costs of the cars being purchased by the MTA with the cost of cars that satisfy the requirements of this bill cannot be made. The MTA estimates that the light rail cars required by this bill would cost from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 more than those in its current fleet. Thus, special fund expenditures could increase by an amount that cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 1996

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Analysis by: Paul Ballou

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710