

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 833 (Delegate Conway, *et al.*)  
 Judiciary

**Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund - Moving Violations - Surcharge**

This bill requires the addition of a \$20 surcharge to any fine levied in a traffic case wherein points may be assessed. The Comptroller is required to pay the surcharges to the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund each year.

This bill applies only to violations committed on or after the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues could increase by an estimated \$7.5 million in FY 2002 and special fund administrative expenditures could increase by an estimated \$159,700. Future year revenues reflect annualization and a 3% increase in the number of cases surcharged; special fund expenditures reflect one-time contractual services.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
SF Revenue	\$7,500,000	\$10,300,000	\$10,609,000	\$10,927,300	\$11,255,100
SF Expenditure	159,700	83,700	89,400	95,600	102,400
Net Effect	\$7,340,300	\$10,216,300	\$10,519,600	\$10,831,700	\$11,152,700

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** The Emergency Medical System Operations Fund was created by legislation in 1992. Chapter 269 of 1992 added an \$8 surcharge to motor vehicle registrations to create the fund, which is used to support the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Aviation Division-Maryland State Police, and the Amoss Fund (grants to local jurisdictions under the State Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund). There has been no increase in the surcharge since its enactment.

Based on fiscal 2002 budget allowances, the Department of Legislative Services estimates that a \$7.2 million deficit will occur in the fund by the end of fiscal 2002 if action is not taken to either increase revenues or to decrease expenditures from the fund.

**State Revenues:** In fiscal 2002 the District Court is expected to handle approximately 500,000 traffic citations for which points may be assessed. Based on this information, special fund revenues could increase by \$7.5 million in fiscal 2002, which reflects the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date. Future year estimates reflect annualization and a growth rate of 3% per year, based on the average increase in cases over the fiscal 1997 to 2000 period. This estimate assumes that for each case, the regular fine plus the \$20 surcharge will be assessed and paid. It should be noted, however, that funds going to the general fund could decrease, because when additional fees increase the total amount that a defendant must pay, a judge may reduce the fine to accommodate the increase and thereby deprive the general fund.

**State Expenditures:** Special fund administrative expenditures could increase by an estimated \$159,661 in fiscal 2002, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring two fiscal accounting clerks for the District Court. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, and ongoing operating expenses. It also includes \$99,750 in contractual services to: (1) redesign the court's automated traffic system (\$9,950); (2) revise and redistribute the traffic citations to all law enforcement agencies (\$80,000); and (3) \$10,000 to modify the court's Interactive Voice Response System.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$59,716
Contractual Expenses	99,750
Supplies	<u>195</u>
<b>Total FY 2002 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$159,661</b>

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with a 6.5% increase in fiscal 2003 and a 4.5% increase each year thereafter, with a 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 22, 2001  
jm/cer Revised – Updated Information – February 28, 2001

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