

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 55 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee)
(Departmental – Transportation)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Vehicle Laws - Young Drivers - Alcohol Restrictions

This departmental bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to impose on each licensee under the age of 21 an alcohol restriction that prohibits the licensee from driving or attempting to drive while having alcohol in the licensee's blood.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional workload for the MVA could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Transportation (DOT) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The MVA must impose an alcohol restriction on each licensee under the age of 21 that prohibits driving with a blood alcohol concentration of .02 or more as determined by a breath or blood analysis.

Background: Some circuit courts have found that existing law only allows a blood alcohol test to be used as proof that an under 21 alcohol provision has been violated, despite any circumstantial evidence that may exist. This creates an incentive for

juveniles to refuse to take an alcohol test when detained by an officer. In contrast, circumstantial evidence can be used to prove alcohol violations by an adult. In 2000, 1,633 persons under the age of 21 were issued citations for alcohol violations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration),
Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/jr

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