

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1408

(Delegate Cardin)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Bicycles and Motor Scooters - Exceptions to Requirement to Stay
Right

This bill expands the conditions under which a person operating a bicycle or a motor scooter on a road is not required to ride as close to the right side of the road as possible to include: (1) avoiding pedestrians or road hazards; (2) when the right lane is a right turn only lane; or (3) operating in a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle or motor scooter and a vehicle to travel safely side by side. The bill also states that all exceptions to this rule only apply when a person is riding a bicycle or scooter at a speed below the speed of traffic then existing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal loss of general fund revenue due to the penalty provisions applicable under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine).

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person operating a bicycle or scooter on a roadway must ride as near to the right side as practicable and safe, except when making a left turn, operating on a one-way street, or when passing a stopped or slower moving vehicle. The prepay penalty set by District Court for violations of this law is \$35. In general, persons convicted of a

misdemeanor for violating any provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law are subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill to the third reader version, HB 982, was introduced in the 2004 session, but no action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 2005
ncs/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - April 11, 2005

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