

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 320 (Delegate Stukes, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Transit Vehicles and Facilities - Prohibited Acts - Use of Obscene Language

This bill prohibits the use of obscene language in Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and MARC transit vehicles and facilities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal general fund revenue increase due to the existing penalty provision applicable to this offense. No effect on expenditures as enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person is prohibited from engaging in 13 unlawful acts in MTA and MARC transit vehicles and facilities. Unlawful acts include, among other things, smoking, consuming food or beverages, and improperly disposing of litter. Any person who commits any of these acts is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of not more than \$500 for each offense. For acts of a similar nature, a prepayable fine of \$40 applies.

Background: All peace officers of the State of Maryland are authorized to issue citations for violations of the motor vehicle laws. The MTA police force is made up of more than 146 sworn officers and approximately 26 civilian employees, dedicated to

providing law enforcement. The MTA police force is multijurisdictional, as they patrol Baltimore City and the surrounding counties. Generally, prohibited acts on MTA or MARC transit vehicles and facilities carry a prepayable fine of \$40, which includes court costs; however, certain other acts such as carrying explosives or concealed weapons carry a prepayable fine of \$520, which includes court costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2008
mcp/lgc

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