

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 98 (Delegate McIntosh)
Environmental Matters

Baltimore City - Vehicle Laws - On-Street Parking

This bill authorizes Baltimore City to enact an ordinance allowing a person to stop or park a vehicle, parallel to the roadway, on either the left or right hand side of a designated two-way roadway. The vehicle's wheels must be within 12 inches of the curb or side of road on which the vehicle is stopped or parked.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City revenues from parking tickets could decrease by approximately \$10,000 annually. City expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Parking against the flow of traffic is prohibited in the State of Maryland. On a two-way roadway a vehicle may stop or park parallel to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, with its right hand wheels within 12 inches of that curb or edge of the roadway.

Except as otherwise provided by local ordinance, on a one-way roadway a vehicle may stop or park parallel to the roadway on either the left hand or right hand side of the street. The vehicle must be facing in the direction of authorized traffic movement with either its

right hand wheels within 12 inches of the right hand curb or edge of the roadway or with its left hand wheels within 12 inches of the left hand curb or edge of the roadway.

Background: In Baltimore City, vehicles parked facing against the flow of traffic can be issued a \$27 citation. A pamphlet published by the Baltimore City government titled *Steer Clear of a Parking Ticket* indicates that parking against the flow of traffic (opposite side of the street) is dangerous and illegal; and that violations will be strictly enforced.

Local Revenues: Revenue from parking citations could decrease by a minimal amount beginning in fiscal 2009. Baltimore City does not currently track historical data on tickets that have been issued for this offense but estimates that parking enforcement agents issue approximately 30 citations a month, resulting in fines of approximately \$9,720 annually. The extent of any revenue decrease would depend on which areas are designated for “parking against the flow of traffic” and whether city parking enforcement agents increase enforcement for other types of parking violations. The potential revenue decrease represents a small portion of overall revenues from parking tickets. In fiscal 2007, Baltimore City collected \$11.7 million from parking fines and \$8.9 million in penalties on parking fines.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 25, 2008
mcp/hlb

Analysis by: Erik P. Timme

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510