

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 201 (Delegate Norman, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

**Motor Vehicles - Renewal of Drivers' Licenses - Contractors for the Armed Forces
of the United States**

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to renew the driver's license of a military contractor (and any spouse or dependent) residing outside the United States upon receiving acceptable documentation, if they satisfy all other requirements for renewal.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues decrease minimally beginning in FY 2011 due to the collection of fewer license issuance fees from military contractors upon their return from residence outside the United States. A license renewal fee (\$30) is \$15 less than the fee for issuance of an original driver's license (\$45). MVA operations and expenditures are assumed to be minimal and can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: To qualify under the bill, a person must be a contractor (or spouse or dependent) residing in another country who performs work for the armed forces of the United States.

Current Law: A license held by a member of the armed forces on active service (or any dependent) remains in full force and effect during the absence. The license also remains

in effect for a period of 30 days following the date of return to this State or discharge from active service if the licensee has the valid license and papers indicating the member's active service or discharge.

A member of the armed forces serving on active duty (and any dependent) is exempt from the normally applicable driver's licensing requirements if the driver has a license issued by the state of domicile. In addition, a member of the armed forces (and any dependent) is exempt for up to 30 days after returning to the United States if the driver has a license to drive issued by the armed forces in a place outside the United States.

State Revenues: Legislative Services advises that there is no data available from which to estimate the revenue loss under the bill. Based on an extrapolation of data from the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. Department of Defense, Legislative Services advises it is reasonable to estimate that the number of military contractors overseas who will return to Maryland may be about 500. However, there is no way to estimate how many contractors return each year, how many spouses or dependents accompany each contractor, or how many of their licenses are due for renewal during their residency outside of the United States. Nevertheless, Legislative Services advises that any decrease in TTF revenue under the bill will be minimal and likely no more than several thousand dollars.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Defense, Congressional Research Service, Department of Legislative Services

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mpc/ljm

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