

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1329

(Delegate Norman)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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

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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 have a Maryland residence address and satisfy all other requirements for renewal.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues may decrease negligibly beginning in FY 2012 due to the potential 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 can implement the bill with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

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

**Current Law:** A driver's 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.

MVA also maintains a separate process for the renewal of driver's licenses of individuals absent from the State for cause, other than for active duty service in the armed forces. MVA is authorized, but not required, to renew a driver's license by mail for such individuals.

**State Revenues:** Legislative Services advises that there are 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, how many of their licenses are due for renewal during their residency outside of the United States, or how many licenses are already being renewed under current authorization for those absent from the State for cause. Nevertheless, Legislative Services advises that any decrease in TTF revenue under the bill will be minimal and likely no more than several thousand dollars.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill, HB 201 of 2010, received a hearing in the House Environmental Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 2011  
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Analysis by: Evan M. Isaacson

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