

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1438  
Judiciary

(Delegate Clagett)

Finance

---

**City of Frederick - Criminal History Records Check - Taxi Driver Applicants**

---

This bill authorizes the Frederick City Police Department to request State and national criminal history records checks for each taxi driver applicant. The records checks are confidential, may not be disseminated, and may only be used for the employment purpose authorized under the bill. The records check applications must be made to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Central Repository by forwarding two complete sets of the applicant's fingerprints to the Central Repository.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The Central Repository can handle the bill's authorizations with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None. The cost of any criminal history background checks will be charged to license applicants.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** There are 146 taxi drivers currently licensed by the Frederick City Police Department.

The taxi driver license application fee is \$10 and the license fee for successful applicants is \$50. Licenses must be renewed at the same cost on June 30 of the second calendar year after the initial license issuance. Applicants pay the cost of background checks as well as the costs for medical and drug screenings.

**Background:** The Public Service Commission regulates taxicabs in four jurisdictions: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Hagerstown, and Cumberland. Taxi drivers in those jurisdictions are required to provide a criminal history records check. In addition to the City of Frederick, the following jurisdictions have their own division that licenses taxicab companies – Anne Arundel (City of Annapolis), Carroll (City of Westminster), Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Worcester (Town of Ocean City) counties. In counties where there are only a few taxicabs, there is no licensing requirement, though local law enforcement may have some oversight role.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The total cost for each CJIS criminal history records check and fingerprinting is \$54.50, which includes State and national background checks. Of that amount, \$38 covers the cost of fingerprint cards and the State portion of the records checks and \$16.50 covers the national portion. Assuming that the Frederick City Police Department exercises the authority granted under the bill, and that records checks are performed for all 146 taxicab licensees, annual local expenditures for the City of Frederick will increase by \$7,957, which will be covered in its entirety by applicants.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** City of Frederick, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Public Service Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 15, 2012  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 27, 2012

---

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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