

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 3 (Delegate Beidle)
Environmental Matters

Motor Vehicles - Mopeds and Motor Scooters - Valid Drivers' Licenses or Permits

This bill requires the operator of a moped or motor scooter to possess a *valid* driver's license or moped operator's permit.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues increase, likely minimally, as additional actions against moped or motor scooter operators for driving without a valid driver's license or moped operator's permit result in the collection of fines. Expenditures are unaffected.

Local Effect: None. The bill is not anticipated to affect local operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual operating a moped or motor scooter on a highway in Maryland must possess either a driver's license issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) or, if a nonresident, the state or country of residence, or a moped operator's permit issued by MVA.

A person may not drive a motor vehicle on any highway with a license or privilege to drive that is suspended, revoked, cancelled, or refused in this State or in any other state; mopeds and motor scooters are not "motor vehicles" as defined by the Maryland Vehicle Law.

Operating a moped or motor scooter without driver's license or moped operator's permit is a misdemeanor violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law subject to a maximum fine of \$500.

Background: According to an article in the *Maryland Gazette*, several actions brought against motor scooter operators without valid driver's licenses were dismissed because the Maryland Vehicle Law only requires, as discussed above, that an individual operating a moped or motor scooter possess a driver's license or moped operator's permit. That provision does not specify that the driver's license or moped operator's permit has to be valid.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, *Maryland Gazette*, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 28, 2013
mlm/ljm

Analysis by: Evan M. Isaacson

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