

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 671

(Senator Young, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Motor Vehicle Administration - Commercial Driver's License - Program for
Veterans and Service Members (Troops to Trucks)

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to establish a program to assist veterans and members of the military who are transitioning out of military service to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL). As part of the program, MVA must waive the required skill test for those who meet the eligibility criteria established by MVA, consistent with federal law, and coordinate and consult with military bases, community colleges, the Maryland Motor Truck Association, and other parties to explore the feasibility of providing a CDL training course on military bases in the State. MVA may adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances; MVA can implement the bill with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. Community colleges can consult with MVA with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland Vehicle Law generally prohibits the issuance of a CDL until the individual has passed the knowledge and skill tests for driving a commercial motor vehicle that complies with the federal Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. However, MVA is required to adopt regulations to waive the skill test in a manner consistent with federal law.

Beginning January 1, 2013, MVA began waiving the skill tests for military service members who meet specified criteria and are trying to obtain a Maryland Class A or B CDL. The waiver may be granted to an applicant who (1) either is still on an active-duty status or was discharged within the previous 12 months and (2) holds (or held) a valid military operator's permit/license and wants to obtain a Maryland CDL of the same class as the military operator's permit/license.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) projects that the population of veterans in Maryland in 2015 is 428,861, which is about 7% of the State's population. The MDVA website advertises numerous programs, jobs, and training programs for veterans, including the expedited professional licensing benefits offered under the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 (Chapters 154 and 155).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 846 (Delegate Vogt, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Military Department, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

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