

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 181 (Delegate Tarlau, *et al.*)
 Environment and Transportation

Motor Vehicles - Registration Cards - Digital or Electronic Images

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to issue and deliver (on request) to the owner of a motor vehicle at the time of registration a digital or electronic image of the registration card for the motor vehicle. The digital or electronic image must contain the same information as the registration card. The bill also authorizes an individual who is driving or in control of a motor vehicle to carry the digital or electronic image and to display on the demand of a police officer the digital or electronic image instead of the registration card.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by approximately \$111,500 in FY 2017 for MVA to contract with an outside vendor for programming changes and additional equipment. The District Court may realize minimal operational efficiencies. General fund revenues decrease, potentially significantly, beginning in FY 2017, assuming fewer drivers are fined for failure to carry or display the required registration card.

(in dollars)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
GF Revenue	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)
SF Expenditure	\$111,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	(\$111,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: When MVA registers a vehicle, it must issue and deliver to the owner a registration card that contains certain information, including:

- the date issued;
- the name and Maryland address of the owner;
- the registration number assigned to the vehicle; and
- a description of the vehicle.

An individual who is driving or in control of a vehicle must carry a registration card in the vehicle to which the registration card refers. On demand of a police officer, that individual has to display a registration card that refers to the vehicle. However, in the case of a rental vehicle, an individual may satisfy the requirements by carrying in the vehicle and making available a valid rental agreement in place of a registration card. The requirements do not apply if the card is being used to apply for the transfer of registration of the vehicle. A violation of these requirements is a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of \$500 or a prepayment fine of \$50.

State Revenues: The Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts) advises that 24,348 violations of registration card requirements in fiscal 2015 resulted in prepayment of a \$50 fine. Thus, the State received approximately \$1.2 million in revenue from fines issued to drivers who failed to comply with registration card requirements. Assuming a portion of these violations would not occur under the bill, general fund revenues decrease beginning in fiscal 2017 because fewer people would be cited for a violation of registration card requirements and subject to payment of a fine.

State Expenditures: TTF expenditures increase in fiscal 2017 by \$111,500 for MVA to contract with an outside vendor for programming changes and other equipment costs. MVA proposes to implement the bill in two phases. The first phase allows registrants to obtain a digital or electronic registration card by downloading a PDF (Portable Document Format) at a cost of \$22,500 to MVA. The second phase allows the registrant to obtain the digital or electronic image through an Android or Apple smartphone at a cost to MVA of \$89,000. Expenditures in future years are not affected.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2016
kb/ljm

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