

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1039 (Delegate Lisanti, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Motor Vehicles - Driver Education Program Curriculum - Police Traffic Stop
Procedures and Basic Vehicle Maintenance

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), to adopt regulations requiring that classroom instruction for the driver education program include at least one hour of instruction on what to do when stopped by a police officer and one hour of instruction on basic vehicle safety and maintenance.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: MVA is required to, in consultation with MSDE, adopt and enforce regulations to implement a standardized driver education program conducted by driver education schools. The regulations include curriculum, equipment, and facility standards for classroom, laboratory, and on-road instruction phases, as well as minimum student performance standards for an approved driver education program, consisting of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least 6 hours of highway driving instruction.

The MVA website indicates that there are 199 approved driving schools in Maryland. All counties and Baltimore City have at least one approved driving school. The larger urban

jurisdictions may have 20 or more approved driving schools. For example, Montgomery and Baltimore counties contain 28 of these schools. Caroline, Garrett, Kent, and Somerset counties, on the other hand, each contain only one approved driving school.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses that conduct driver education programs likely need to adjust current curricula to comply with the bill, to the extent that they are not already spending at least one hour instructing students on what to do when stopped by a police officer and at least another hour on basic vehicle safety maintenance. The driver education program must include at least 30 hours of instruction. Assuming such programs make no other adjustments to the current curricula (and assuming they are not currently covering either topic), the bill could result in an additional two hours of instruction beyond the required 30-hour minimum. However, MVA advises that it is updating the required curriculum and expects to release a revised version in January 2017. Because driver education programs will have to update their training programs to comply with MVA's new curriculum (regardless of whether the bill passes), the impact of the bill may be moderated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

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md/ljm

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