

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 906
Finance

(Senator Waugh, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Construction of a Highway or County Road - Commercial Property - Access
Roads

This bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA), a county, or a municipality that offers any commercial business that is impacted by the construction of a highway or county road an entrance to an access road to also offer an entrance to the access road to all commercial businesses within a reasonable distance to the access road. This requirement only applies during the construction of a highway or county road. A commercial business must reimburse SHA, the county, or the municipality reasonable costs for the entrance to the access road. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Because the bill requires a commercial business to reimburse SHA for the costs of an access road entrance, the bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: Because the bill requires a commercial business to reimburse a local government for the costs of an access road entrance, the bill is not expected to materially affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: SHA is responsible for more than 5,200 miles or approximately 16,800 lane miles of road, 2,500 bridges, 3,500 small stream crossing structures, and 80 miles of sound barriers in the State. It also has responsibility for

planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining these roads and bridges to safety and performance standards while considering sociological, ecological, and economic concerns.

When SHA or a local transportation agency performs construction that blocks or adversely affects the path to or from a commercial business, the business may be given permission to use an entrance onto one of the agency's access roads. An access road is a temporary road created in a work zone and used by a transportation agency for various purposes, such as moving construction equipment in and out of the work zone. Generally, a person cannot use the access road without permission. SHA advises that allowing more entrances and traffic on its access roads could negatively affect its construction projects because the access roads often go directly through the work zones.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Charles, and Montgomery counties; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2018
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