

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 749

(Delegate R. Lewis, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Enforcement

This bill requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), in consultation with Baltimore City, to examine and analyze dedicated bus lane enforcement mechanisms used by peer transit agencies in the United States. The analysis must include (1) an examination of best practices and technologies that have been effective in reducing violations of dedicated bus lanes by unauthorized users; (2) a review of potential capital and operating costs associated with dedicated bus lane enforcement mechanisms; and (3) an evaluation of the most effective methods for ensuring compliance with and enforcement of existing law, including the issuance of fines and exceptions from current prohibitions. MTA must report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2018. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018, and terminates June 30, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Although the bill takes effect in FY 2018, expenditures are likely not affected until FY 2019. Transportation Trust Fund expenditures increase by as much as \$150,000 in FY 2019 for MDOT to hire a consulting firm to assist with the required study. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	0	150,000	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$150,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Baltimore City can consult with MDOT using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Bus lane violations are addressed in State law through failure to obey a properly placed traffic control device (which includes bus lane markings), which is a violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law and subject to a maximum penalty of \$500. The prepayment penalty is \$90 and, upon conviction, one point assessed against the driver's license. If the violation contributes to an accident, the prepayment penalty increases to \$130 and three points assessed against the license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 551 (Senator Conway) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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