

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 130

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

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Maryland Transit Administration and Baltimore City Department of
Transportation – Study of Dedicated Bus Lanes

This bill requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), jointly with the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, to (1) study and analyze dedicated bus lane enforcement mechanisms used by peer transit agencies in the United States, as specified, and (2) develop a plan to enforce violations of dedicated bus lanes in Baltimore City. By December 31, 2019, MTA and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation must report their findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019, and terminates June 30, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Completing the required study may necessitate MTA to redirect some of its existing staff in FY 2019 and 2020, but can generally be handled using existing resources.

Local Effect: The Baltimore City Department of Transportation can conduct the study with MTA using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The study 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.

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: HB 749 of 2018, a similar bill as amended, passed the House and was referred to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2019
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