

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 377

(Senator Kagan)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws – Rental Vehicles – Provision of Spare Tires

This bill requires a motor vehicle rental company to provide each rental vehicle with either a spare manufacturer’s standard issue permanent tire or a spare donut tire.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Donut tire” means a spare tire that is smaller in diameter than the manufacturer’s standard issue tires sold on a vehicle and meant only for temporary use.

Current Law: “Motor vehicle rental company” means a person that is in the business of providing motor vehicles to the public under a rental agreement for a period of 180 days or less.

The Maryland Vehicle Law governs rental vehicles and details the requirements, rules, and procedures for motor vehicle rental companies operating in the State. For example, a vehicle may only be rented to an individual who holds a legal driver’s license, and the company must keep detailed records about each individual to whom a vehicle is rented. There are no current laws governing the inclusion of spare tires with rental vehicles.

Generally, it is a misdemeanor to violate any provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law, unless the violation is declared to be a felony or is punishable by a civil penalty, as specified.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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