

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 77 (Delegate Munoz)
Environment and Transportation

Motor Vehicles - Parking - Armed Forces Special Registration Plates

This bill prohibits a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, regulation, or policy requiring the payment of a metered parking fee if the motor vehicle has an individually earned, combat-related Armed Forces special registration plate or a disabled veteran special registration plate issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local government revenues may decline minimally in any jurisdictions that own and operate parking meters, as discussed below. Any changes to enforcement can be handled with existing resources. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

Power of Political Subdivisions and State Agencies to Regulate Parking

Generally, any State agency authorized by law and any political subdivision of the State may adopt ordinances or regulations that:

- regulate the parking of vehicles;
- provide for the impounding of vehicles parked in violation of the ordinances or regulations;
- regulate the towing of vehicles from publicly owned and privately owned parking lots; and
- provide for the issuance of a citation by an officer for a violation of an ordinance or regulation that is adopted pursuant to this authorization.

Special Registration Plates for Recipients of an Individually Earned, Combat-related, Armed Forces Medal

A recipient of an individually earned, combat-related armed services medal may apply to MVA for special registration plates for a Class A (passenger) vehicle, a Class E (truck) vehicle with one ton of capacity or less, a Class M (multipurpose) vehicle, or a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle. The applicant must provide proof of the receipt of the medal. The applicant must pay an additional fee for the registration plates. The registration plates must contain an emblem or logo that depicts the medal awarded and (except on plates issued for motorcycles) words describing the medal printed across the bottom of the plates.

Special Registration Plates for Disabled Veterans

A disabled veteran may apply to MVA for special registration plates for a Class A (passenger) vehicle, a Class E (truck) vehicle with one ton of capacity or less, and a Class M (multipurpose) vehicle. The applicant must provide documentation from the Veterans Administration proving 100% disability. The applicant is not subject to a registration fee. Disabled veteran special registration plates have the same parking meter privileges as the special disability registration plates, including exemption from paying any parking meter fees of the State – or any political subdivision of the State – where parking meters do not meet the American Disabilities Act requirements as well as parking in a metered parking space for twice the maximum time permitted on the meter, but not longer than four hours, unless permitted by the parking meter.

Local Fiscal Effect: Any local governments that operate parking meters may need to modify enforcement procedures so that such vehicles are not improperly cited. Although local revenues may decline (as fewer persons are subject to parking meter fees under the bill), the magnitude of that revenue reduction cannot be determined without additional information (*e.g.*, number of jurisdictions in the State that operate their own parking meters, the amount of fees collected annually, etc.).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, and Montgomery counties; cities of Frederick and Havre de Grace; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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