

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 250 (Senator Teitelbaum, et al.)
Judicial Proceedings

**Drunk and Drugged Driving - Driving While License Suspended or Revoked -
Revocation of Registration**

This bill requires police officers to confiscate registration cards and plates and issue a two-day temporary registration to a vehicle driven by a person whose license has been suspended for an alcohol or drug-related traffic offense.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any increase in Transportation Trust Fund expenditures is expected to be offset by additional revenues, as discussed below.

Local Effect: Potential increase in expenditures. No effect on revenues. **This bill places a mandate on units of local government.**

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: In 1995 there were 2,700 convictions for driving with a suspended, revoked, refused, or canceled license. While the number of alcohol or drug-related cases is not known, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) estimates this bill could affect 500 cases annually. Assuming that the MVA collects \$10 to reissue license plates after they have been confiscated, the additional revenue should offset any increase in costs. It is further assumed that the MVA will provide the forms and materials necessary for law enforcement agencies to issue temporary registrations at no charge to the agencies.

Enforcement of this law is not expected to require additional personnel or expenditures by State law enforcement agencies, although it will increase the amount of time officers spend dealing with these cases.

The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) estimates the bill would result in approximately 100 to 200 hearings annually. This number of hearings could be handled with existing resources.

Local Expenditures: Enforcement of this law will require additional time for law enforcement officers to remove license plates, issue temporary registrations, provide sworn statements that the law was violated, mail license plates and documents to the MVA, and attend administrative hearings. While it is assumed that these procedures would not require additional personnel, overtime for police officers to attend hearings and postage expenses for mailing metal license plates to the MVA could increase local expenditures.

Howard County reports that its police department expects 400 cases a year would require hearings. Postage, travel, and overtime would thus cost the county an estimated \$28,600 annually. Given that the MVA and the OAH estimate about 200 hearings statewide, the Department of Fiscal Services advises that the \$21,400 attributable to overtime and travel may overstate the cost to the county.

Baltimore City and Carroll County report that the bill would not affect their finances.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Office of Administrative Hearings, Baltimore City, Carroll and Howard counties

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