

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 824 (Delegate Petzold, et al.)
Judiciary

Vehicle Laws - Alcoholic Beverages - Open Containers

This bill prohibits a person from keeping an open bottle, can, or other container of an alcoholic beverage in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle while on the highway. This bill specifies that the vehicle owner or driver, whomever is present, is responsible for any violation if it cannot be determined which occupant is the violator. The bill does not prohibit a passenger from possessing such an alcoholic beverage container in a bus, Class B vehicle for hire, or the living quarters of a mobile home. The maximum fine for a violation is \$500.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate general fund revenue increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Any increase is assumed to be minimal. Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 1996

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