

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 155 (Senator Astle)
Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Penalties for Traffic Signal Violations

This bill increases the penalty for failure to stop at a red light from one to two points and the maximum fine to \$1,000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential revenue increase of up to \$24.0 million in FY 1997 and \$32.1 million annually thereafter. Expenditures are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: The current penalty for failure to stop at a steady red traffic signal is \$100. In fiscal 1995 there were 31,276 convictions under this provision of the vehicle law. The penalty for not stopping at a flashing red light or for making turns without stopping for a red light is \$50. In fiscal 1995 there were 4,676 convictions for these provisions of the vehicle law.

State Revenues: Assuming that the maximum penalty is assessed by the District Court for these offenses and the number of convictions remains constant, general fund revenues could increase by \$24,038,500 in fiscal 1997, accounting for the October 1 effective date, and \$32,051,300 annually thereafter. Revenues would be lower to the extent that the District Court sets a fine lower than the maximum and/or the threat of greatly increased penalties reduces the number of violations.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court of Maryland); Department of Fiscal

Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 22, 1996

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