

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 178 (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)
(Departmental - Transportation)

Judiciary

Drivers' Licenses - Violation of Alcohol Restrictions on Drivers Under 21 - Penalties

This departmental bill requires the suspension of the driver's license of a person under 21 years of age who violates the alcohol restriction placed on the license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal effect on Transportation Trust Fund revenues. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Transportation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Fiscal Services concurs with this assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) automatically places an alcohol restriction on the licenses of all drivers under the age of 21. This restriction prohibits the person from operating a motor vehicle with any alcohol in the person's blood. This bill makes a six-month suspension mandatory for the first violation, and suspension for one year or until the person is 21 (whichever is later) for a second offense. Under current law, the MVA proposes six-month suspensions, but the administrative law judges typically suspend the licenses for only 60 days.

The MVA collects a \$15 fee for an application to reinstate a driver's license plus an additional \$60 to reinstate a license after a drug or alcohol related suspension. Increasing the

length of time that a person's license is suspended could delay collection of some Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenue. In addition, making the suspension mandatory would lead to additional suspensions. This would increase TTF revenue. While the delay in collection and potential increase in revenue cannot be reliably estimated at this time, the total effect is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration),
Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 1996

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