

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 269 (Delegate Hixson)
Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Traffic Control Signal Monitoring System - Owner Liability

This bill authorizes local governments or a State agency to issue a citation or warning based on evidence collected by a traffic control monitoring system and provides for a maximum fine amount of \$100. The bill provides that such citations or warnings be issued to the owner of the vehicle. The bill authorizes the owner of the vehicle to request an administrative hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings and establishes certain defenses that may be considered by a hearing officer.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Revenues and expenditures could increase by indeterminate amounts as discussed below.

Local Effect: Revenues could increase as discussed below. Expenditures would not be directly affected.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: The bill provides that fine revenue collected by the District Court be returned to the local jurisdiction or State agency issuing such citations. Thus, fine revenues could increase in those State agencies electing to install and operate traffic control monitoring devices. The amount of such revenues cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

State Expenditures: Expenditures could increase by an estimated \$45 per additional hearing resulting from the bill. Because the number of traffic monitoring systems that would be installed is unknown, and the resulting number of citations issued and appealed, such expenditure increases cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) advises that data processing expenditures could increase by an estimated \$22,000 to program the changes proposed in this legislation. The

Department of Fiscal Services advises that if other legislation is passed requiring data processing changes, economies of scale regarding computer programming changes could be realized. This would reduce computer programming costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the MVA data processing system.

Local Revenues: The bill provides that fine revenue collected by the District Court be returned to the local jurisdiction or State agency issuing such citations. Thus, fine revenues could increase in those political subdivisions electing to install and operate traffic control monitoring devices. The amount of such revenues cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Local Expenditures: This bill is authorizing in nature only, thus expenditures are not directly affected.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration); Department of Fiscal Services; Carroll, Kent, and St. Mary's counties

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 1996

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