

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1109 (Delegate Dypski, et al.)
Commerce and Government Matters

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Failure to Attend Point System Conference - Penalties

This amended bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to require individuals who fail to attend a point system conference to attend a driver improvement or alcohol education program. The bill authorizes the MVA to waive a point system conference if an individual attends a point system conference conducted by a private provider. The bill also authorizes the MVA to impose an annual fee on private providers of point system conferences.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures could increase by \$5,000 in FY 1997 for one-time printing costs. Special fund revenues could increase as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: This bill authorizes the MVA to impose an annual fee for providers of annual point system conferences. Thus, special fund revenues could increase. The Department of Fiscal Services assumes that any such increase would be minimal.

State Expenditures: Under current law, drivers accumulating five or more points against their licenses in a two-year period are notified by the MVA and requested to attend a point system conference. While such notices are mailed to approximately 19,000 drivers each year, because there is no penalty for failing to attend a conference, approximately 47% or 8,930 drivers do not attend a conference. The driver improvement and alcohol education programs authorized by the bill are provided by private sector vendors who impose fees on drivers attending such programs.

Assuming that 75% of those drivers failing to attend conferences in the past attend such conferences in the future to avoid paying fees, an additional 6,698 drivers would attend point system conferences annually. Since the average counseling session includes 25 drivers, an additional 268 conferences would be required annually.

The MVA advises that an additional Driver Improvement Counselor (grade 9, base - annual salary \$19,128) would be required to conduct the additional conferences resulting from this bill. In addition, the MVA advises that \$5,000 in printing costs, \$1,000 in training costs, and \$75 in supplies would be required for a total expenditure increase of \$26,648 in fiscal 1997.

Based on the assumption that a Driver Improvement Counselor could conduct two or three conferences per day, from 89 to 144 days of employee time would be required. The Department of Fiscal Services advises that such a workload does not justify the hiring of an additional full-time position. Further, authorizing private providers to conduct such conferences could reduce demand for MVA sponsored conferences. Thus, special fund expenditures could increase by \$5,000 for one-time printing costs and the additional workload could be absorbed within the existing resources of the MVA.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 1996

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