

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 832 (Senator Boozer)
Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Changing Lanes - Lane Must Be Clear

This bill prohibits a vehicle driver from changing lanes or moving from a shoulder or bikeway into a lane until the lane is clear and does not present a danger to another vehicle.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Current law prohibits changing lanes until the driver has determined it is safe to do so. The District Court reports that in fiscal 1996 there were 6,520 violations of this provision; the fine is \$70. The number of additional violations that may occur under this bill is unknown but assumed to be minimal. To the extent that the bill's changes result in an increase in the number of violations, general fund revenues could increase.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of State Police,
Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 1997

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