

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 852 (Senator Miller)
Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Special Organizational Registration Plates

This bill increases the minimum number, from 25 to 250, of vehicle owners belonging to a nonprofit organization that may apply to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) for special organizational registration plates. In addition to the annual registration fee and the cost recovery fees, a fee of \$25 must be imposed (\$50 for each plate issued to alumni of institutions of higher learning located outside of Maryland). The additional fee must be equally distributed among the World War II Memorial Commission, the Maryland Veterans Commission, and the Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund.

The MVA is not required to reclaim or reissue any current registration plates issued until the regular expiration of the current plates.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund expenditures would increase by \$73,200 in FY 1998, which accounts for the October 1 effective date. Out-year expenditures reflect the biennial registration process. Revenues could increase as discussed below.

(in dollars)	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
SF Revenues	---	---	---	---	---
SF Expenditures	73,200	97,600	24,400	0	0
Net Effect	(\$73,200)	(\$97,600)	(\$24,400)	\$0	\$0

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: The MVA currently collects a one-time fee of \$12 for each organizational plate issued without a logo and \$15 for a plate with a logo. These fees are cost recovery for the MVA.

There are 357 organizations that have been issued approximately 130,000 organizational plates. Of these, 300 organizations have fewer than 250 members and have been issued approximately 64,000 plates. These 64,000 vehicle owners would no longer qualify for the organizational plates under the bill. An estimated 57 organizations have at least 250 members and have been issued an estimated 66,000 organizational plates to their members. These 66,000 vehicle owners would be able to maintain their organizational plates under the bill.

Under the bill, an additional fee of \$25 must be imposed (\$50 for organizations that represent alumni of out-of-state colleges) when any new organizational plates are issued. The number of new organizations with at least 250 members that would apply for additional organizational plates in the future cannot be reliably estimated at this time. To the extent new organizational plates are issued, Transportation Trust Fund revenues would increase. Because the additional fee may only be imposed when new organizational plates are issued, no revenues would be generated from the existing plates. However, if the additional fee were imposed on the existing organizational plates of organizations with at least 250 members, Transportation Trust Fund revenues could increase by \$1.68 million.

The revenues generated from the additional fee must be equally distributed to the World War II Memorial Commission, the Maryland Veterans Commission, and the Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund.

State Expenditures: The vehicle owners that have been issued the 64,000 organizational plates (membership under 250) must be issued standard plates because they would be ineligible for organizational plates. The additional cost is \$3.05 per set of standard plates. Thus, Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by \$195,200 for the issuance of standard plates. The increase in expenditures would occur in the first three years after the bill's effective date because vehicles are registered and new plates are issued every two years.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Maryland Veterans Commission, World War II Memorial Commission, Department of Fiscal Services

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