

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 253 (Delegates Morhaim and Nathan-Pulliam)
Judiciary

Health Care Practitioners - Reports of Blood Alcohol Concentration - Vehicle Operators

This bill authorizes a “health care practitioner” who provides health care service to the driver of a vehicle immediately after the vehicle has been in an accident to report to a law enforcement officer or agency the results of a blood alcohol concentration test. It also provides that a health care practitioner has immunity from civil or administrative liability for making the report or participating in an investigation or judicial proceeding resulting from the report.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill’s requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Minimal effect, as discussed below.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate effect. There could be savings involved for local jurisdictions; if health care practitioners are performing and reporting blood testing, then law enforcement officers would not have to perform this function. To the extent that more timely testing results in additional convictions for driving while impaired or intoxicated, local incarceration costs could increase and local fine revenues could increase. It is assumed that any such effects are minimal.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Department of State Police, Allegany County, Wicomico County, Baltimore City, Talbot County, Prince George's County

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Analysis by: Sue Friedlander

Reviewed by: Paul Ballou

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710