

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 483 (Delegate Bissett, *et al.*)
Judiciary

Ignition Interlock System Programs

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to establish an Administrative Per Se Ignition Interlock System Program. The bill also allows the MVA to modify a driver's license suspension or issue a restrictive license to an individual who has refused to take a test when detained or stopped by a police officer for suspicion of alcohol or drug-related driving offenses if an Ignition Interlock System is installed on the individual's vehicle. The MVA may impose a fee for participation in the program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Increase in Transportation Trust Fund revenues of approximately \$30,000 annually. Potential indeterminate increase in computer costs as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful impact on small businesses that install ignition interlock systems as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Current law allows a police officer to issue a temporary driver's license to an individual who refuses to take a chemical test when detained or stopped for alcohol or drug-related driving offenses. The individual has up to 30 days in which to request a hearing. If it is found that these individuals did refuse to take the test after a hearing or a hearing was not requested within 30 days, their driver's licenses may be suspended for 120 days for the first offense and one year for a second or subsequent offense. An individual whose license was suspended for refusal to take a test may not have the suspension modified or be issued a restrictive license.

State Revenues: In fiscal 1996, it is estimated that approximately 6,000 individuals were

charged with refusing to take a test under the specified conditions and would be subject to having their licenses suspended. Under this bill, driver suspensions may be modified or drivers may be issued restrictive licenses if an ignition interlock system is installed. To operate a vehicle with an ignition interlock system installed, the driver's licenses must be modified to reflect this restriction. The fee for a restricted license is \$10. Assuming half of these individuals opt to have the ignition interlock system installed, Transportation Trust Fund revenues could increase by \$30,000 per year.

State Expenditures: The MVA advises expenditures could increase by approximately \$43,200 to provide an ignition interlock program. In addition, the MVA estimates that an additional Customer Service Representative is needed to implement, monitor, and maintain the ignition interlock system program with a first year cost estimated at \$16,845 in fiscal 1998, which accounts for the October 1 effective date. This estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits, and ongoing operating expenses. Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with 3.5% annual increases, 3% employee turnover, and 2% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses. The bill provides that the fees may be imposed on the participants. The Department of Fiscal Services advises that the fees imposed should be sufficient to offset the costs of setting up and administering the program.

Small Business Effect: This bill could result in the installation of 3,000 ignition interlock systems at an estimated cost of \$50 each. In addition to installation charges, vendors charge a monthly leasing fee of approximately \$55 per system. Thus, small businesses that provide ignition interlock systems could realize a substantial increase in sales.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 1997

ncs

Analysis by: Christina H. Kim

Reviewed by: Paul Ballou

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710