

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 533 (Senator Ruben)
Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Falsified Documents - Foreign Jurisdictions

This bill broadens the current prohibitions against the falsification, misrepresentation, use, or possession of certain official documents issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to include official documents issued by the MVA's counterparts in other jurisdictions. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$500 and/or imprisonment for up to two months.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision. 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: General fund revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

As a point of reference, the District Court reports that in fiscal 1996 there were 541 violations of current law provisions against the falsification, misrepresentation, use, or possession of certain official documents issued by the MVA.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration

penalty depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for people in their facilities for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$23 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 1998.

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

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