

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1455 (Delegate C. Mitchell, *et al.*)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Vehicle Laws - Special Organizational Registration Plates - Emblems and Logos**

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This bill provides that a flag emblem or logo displayed on registration plates issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) may only depict the United States flag, the Maryland State flag, or a flag that was incorporated into an official symbol or flag of a political subdivision of the State before July 1, 1997.

At least 30 days before the end of the registration period of the vehicle, the MVA is required to notify a person who has been issued the affected special organizational registration plates before July 1, 1997 that the plates must be returned to the MVA by the end of the registration period. Upon the return of the plates, the MVA must issue authorized replacement registration plates.

The bill is effective July 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund expenditures would increase by approximately \$208 in both FY 1998 and 1999 to reflect the biennial registration process. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** There are two organizations that have flag logos displayed on their special organizational registration plates that would be affected. The Sons of the Confederate Veterans has a confederate flag on its plates and the Mid-Atlantic Moto-X-

Association has a black and white checkered flag. These organizations have been issued 79 and 44 organizational plates, respectively.

These 123 vehicle owners must be issued standard plates because they would no longer qualify for organizational plates. The additional cost is \$3.05 per set of standard plates. Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$375 for the issuance of standard plates. In addition, Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$40 in postage costs to notify the vehicle owners of the recall. Thus, since vehicles are registered and new plates are issued every two years, Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$208 in both fiscal 1998 and 1999.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration),  
Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 1997

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