

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 376 (Delegate Wood)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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Vehicle Laws - Drivers' Licenses - Vision Standards

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This bill modifies the vision standards under the Maryland Vehicle Law. The bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to issue a restricted license to those applicants with at least 20/40 visual acuity in one or both eyes. A restricted class C noncommercial driver's license may be issued to those with 20/70 visual acuity in one or both eyes and to those with less than 20/70 visual acuity but a minimum of 20/125 in one or both eyes. These applicants are restricted to driving during the daytime and may also be subject to other restrictions. The bill also authorizes MVA to allow those with at least 20/70 visual acuity but not less than 20/125 in one or both eyes to apply for nighttime driving after one year of daytime driving. The bill is effective October 1, 1997 and sunsets on September 30, 2002.

The bill repeals the current sunset date of June 30, 1999 on the issuance of driver's licenses to bioptic telescopic lens users and provides instead that the MVA may issue licenses to these individuals only through September 30, 1997.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund revenues would increase by \$45,000 in FY 1998, accounting for the October 1 effective date. Out-year revenues reflect annualization and a constant number of new restricted licenses. Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by \$18,600 in FY 1998, due to the October 1 effective date. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation.

(in dollars)	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
SF Revenues	\$45,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
SF Expenditures	18,600	25,000	25,900	26,900	27,900
Net Effect	\$26,400	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000

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

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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### Fiscal Analysis

**State Revenues:** It is estimated that 2,000 additional restricted drivers' licenses will be issued annually as a result of this bill. The fee to obtain a driving license is \$30. Transportation Trust Fund revenues thus could increase by \$45,000 in fiscal 1998, accounting for the October 1 effective date, and \$60,000 annually thereafter.

**State Expenditures:** Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$18,634 in fiscal 1998, which reflects the bill's October 1, 1997 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one Driving License Examiner to administer driving examinations including nighttime testing. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, and ongoing operating expenses. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- approximately 160,000 driving tests were administered in fiscal 1996;
- 130 driving license examiners budgeted in fiscal 1996; and
- additional 2,000 driving tests will be administered under this bill.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$18,559
Operating Expenses	<u>75</u>
<b>Total FY 1998 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$18,634</b>

Future year expenditures reflect (1) full salaries with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 2% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Allowing the issuance of a license to a bioptic telescopic lens users only through September 30, 1997 would not materially affect revenues or expenditures because only about 35 individuals currently have such a license.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 1997

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