

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 406 (Delegate Frank, *et al.*)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Vehicle Laws - Taxicabs - Working Locks on All Doors**

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This bill requires that taxicabs be equipped with working door locks on each door. The door locks must be able to be locked and unlocked by the passenger or driver at will. The bill also requires that each taxicab in the State be inspected to verify that all the door locks are in working order by July 1, 1997.

This bill has an effective date of June 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The Public Service Commission could handle the additional inspection requirements with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill's changes could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal impact on taxicab providers.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** The Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates and inspects approximately 1,500 taxicabs in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cumberland, and Hagerstown. The PSC advises that it believes that these taxicabs are equipped with door locks in good, working order. The additional inspection requirement of the bill could be handled with existing budgeted PSC resources as the PSC already requires that taxicabs be inspected at least twice a year. There is no fee associated with the inspections provided by the PSC.

**Local Effect:** Certain counties such as Prince George's and Anne Arundel license taxicab providers in their respective jurisdictions. Both counties report that the bill's additional inspection requirement could be handled with already existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** There are approximately 80 taxicab companies in the State. Virtually all of them are small businesses. Many additional licensed taxicab drivers are single person operators who contract with a larger company. Generally, the individual operator bears the costs associated with the maintenance and inspection of the vehicle. Thus, these individual operators and the 80 taxicab companies could be minimally impacted by this bill to the extent that they are required to repair or install new door locks. The PSC advises that the costs associated with installing a new mechanical door lock is approximately \$10 and the cost to install a complete set (all four doors) of electrically-powered locks is \$250.

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**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Garrett, and Prince George's counties; Judiciary (District Court of Maryland); Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration); Public Service Commission

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 7, 1997

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