

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 816 (Delegate Benson, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

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Vehicle Laws - Seat Belt Offenses - Enforcement

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This amended bill makes failure to wear a seat belt a primary offense by repealing current law that permits a police officer to enforce the mandatory seat belt law only as a secondary offense when the driver of the vehicle is detained for a suspected violation of another provision of the law.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Indeterminate increase in general fund revenues under the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Given the large number of drivers who do not wear seat belts, the revenue increase could be significant.

Expenditures would not be affected as enforcement by the State Police could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None. Enforcement by local law enforcement agencies could be handled with existing resources.

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

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 1997

brd Revised - House Third Reader - March 17, 1997

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