

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 26 (Senator Boozer)  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Vehicle Laws - Alcoholic Beverages - Open Containers**

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This bill prohibits open containers of alcohol in the passenger area of a motor vehicle while that vehicle is on any highway in the State. Passengers, other than the driver, riding in a passenger bus, in a for hire vehicle, or in the living quarters of a motor home are not prohibited from possessing open containers of alcohol. If it cannot be determined which occupant is the violator, then the owner of the vehicle, or the driver of the vehicle in the owner's absence, is held responsible for the violation. This violation carries a maximum fine of \$500.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate general fund revenue increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland vehicle law (maximum \$500 fine). Any increase is assumed to be minimal. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None. It is assumed that enforcement by local law enforcement agencies can be handled with existing revenues.

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

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**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 9, 1997  
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