

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 66 (Senator Baker)
Judicial Proceedings

Motor Vehicles - Failure to Stop for a Red Light - Penalties

This bill increases the penalties for failure to stop for a steady red light. The number of points that must be assessed against a person who fails to stop increases from one to two and the maximum fine increases from \$120/\$70 to \$1,000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential revenue increase of \$24.6 million FY 1998 and \$32.8 million annually thereafter. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: The current penalty for failure to stop at a steady red traffic signal is \$120. In fiscal 1996 there were 33,981 violations under this provision of the vehicle law. The penalty for making turns without stopping for a red light is \$70. In fiscal 1996 there were 3,128 violations for this provision of the vehicle law. In sum, fines of \$4,296,680 were assessed for these violations.

Assuming that the maximum penalty is assessed by the District Court for these offenses and the number of convictions remains constant, general fund revenues could increase by \$24,609,240 in fiscal 1998, accounting for the October 1 effective date, and \$32,812,320 annually thereafter. Revenues would be lower to the extent that the District Court sets a fine lower than the maximum and/or the threat of greatly increased penalties reduces the number of violations.

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

Department of Fiscal Services, Judiciary (District Court of Maryland)

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 13, 1997

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