

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 567 (Delegate T. Murphy)  
Judiciary

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**Vehicle Laws - Aggressive Driving - Violation and Penalties**

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This bill establishes the offense of aggressive driving. Aggressive driving is driving in a belligerent, contentious, or antagonistic manner that endangers the safety of persons or property. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$500 and/or imprisonment for up to two months. In addition, five points are assessed on the violator's driving record.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential indeterminate increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** Potential indeterminate increase in expenditures due to the bill's penalty provision. Revenues would not be affected.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** There are two similar driving offenses, reckless driving and negligent driving. Reckless driving is driving in wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property. Negligent driving is driving in a careless or imprudent manner that endangers persons or property. Both offenses carry a penalty of a maximum \$500 fine. In fiscal 1996, there were 3,346 reckless driving violations and 11,776 negligent driving violations.

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

**Local Expenditures:** Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$23 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 1998.

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

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