

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 137 (Senator Frosh, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Annual Registration Fee - Special Registration Plates
for Disabled Veterans

This enrolled bill allows eligible disabled veterans to receive the special registration number and special registration plates for organizational, combat related (“Purple Heart”), special amateur radio, and special commemorative plates without paying registration fees.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate increase in expenditures. Revenues would not be affected as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Current law allows disabled veterans to receive standard registration plates and handicapped plates without paying registration fees. There are approximately 2,276 holders of disabled veteran (DV) registration plates. It is not known how many DV plate holders would opt for an organizational, Purple Heart, special amateur radio, or special commemorative plates. However, it is assumed that most disabled veterans already receive free registration by holding standard or handicapped plates. As a result, offering additional types of plates at no charge to disabled veterans is not expected to materially affect revenues. In any event, for each additional disabled veteran who applies for an additional type of plate, Transportation Trust Fund revenues would decrease by \$27.

State Expenditures: The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) advises that

reprogramming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$13,300 to program the changes proposed in this legislation. The Department of Fiscal Services (DFS) advises that if other legislation is passed requiring computer reprogramming changes, economies of scale could be realized. This would reduce computer programming costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the MVA. Further, DFS advises that the increased computer expenditure is simply an estimate and the MVA may be able to handle the changes with either less money than it estimates or existing resources.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 14, 1997

mld Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 22, 1997

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