

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 507 (Senator Young, *et al.*)
Judicial Proceedings

Motor Vehicles - Driver's Licenses - Graduated Licensing Program

This bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to establish a graduated licensing program for persons under the age of 18. An individual who is at least 15 years old may obtain a learner's instructional permit and individuals who are at least 16 years old may obtain an intermediate driver's permit after passing the necessary examinations (vision, knowledge, and driving). An individual under 18 must have held a learner's instructional permit for at least six months to obtain an intermediate driver's permit. A holder of a learner's instructional permit may drive only when accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old. Both permits restrict the holders from driving between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. unless the holder has been granted a waiver.

The bill also requires the MVA to impose a controlled dangerous substance restriction on the driver's license of any individual under age 21.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund revenues could increase by \$450,000 in FY 1998 only. Potential indeterminate increase in computer programming and form costs as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Current law requires an individual to be at least 15 years, 9 months to receive a learner's instructional permit. It is estimated that every month 1,667 individuals turn 15 years, 9 months and receive their learner's instructional permits. It is assumed that 15 year olds would eventually obtain learner's instructional permits; under

this bill, these minors would be able to obtain them earlier. Because this bill expands eligibility to receive a learner's instructional permit by nine months, it is estimated that 15,000 additional learner's instructional permits may be issued in the first year of the bill's effectiveness (fiscal 1998). The fee for an instructional permit is \$30. No fee is currently imposed when transferring from an instructional permit to a standard driver's license. Thus, it is assumed no fees will be imposed for transferring from an instructional permit to an intermediate permit to a standard driver's license. Thus, Transportation Trust Fund revenues could experience a one-time increase of \$450,000 in fiscal 1998 only.

State Expenditures: The MVA advises that computer programming and form expenditures could increase by an estimated \$75,150 to make the changes as proposed in this legislation. The Department of Fiscal Services (DFS) advises that if other legislation is passed requiring computer reprogramming and form changes, economies of scale could be realized. This would reduce computer programming and form costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the MVA system. Further, DFS advises that the increased computer and form 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), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 1997

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