

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 547 (Senator Jimeno)
Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Combinations - Maximum Length

This bill extends the maximum permissible length of a combination of vehicles with a power unit that is a cargo-carrying vehicle from 55 feet to 65 feet.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential significant decrease in federal fund revenues. Minimal decrease in special fund and general fund revenues as discussed below. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal positive impact on small businesses to the extent that the additional length of vehicle combinations allowed under the bill's provisions is utilized by small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: The federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 denies a state the authority to alter length and weight limitations on combinations of vehicles. Implementation of this bill, thus, would subject the State to federal sanctions, including monetary penalties in excess of \$1 million in federal assistance for the Motor Carrier Safety Program. However, it is unclear when such sanctions would be imposed.

In fiscal 1996, the State Highway Administration issued two permits for combinations of vehicles with power units that are cargo carrying with a length over the current law limit of 55 feet. Under the bill's provisions, the permits would no longer be necessary. The cost of a permit is \$50.

Extending the permissible length of such vehicles will decrease the number of vehicles in

violation of the law; general fund revenues could thus decrease as fewer citations are issued. This violation carries a fine of \$120. However, the decrease is expected to be minimal as there were only six violations of this provision in fiscal 1996.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (State Highway Administration), Department of State Police, Judiciary (District Court), Department of Fiscal Services

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