

Department of Fiscal Services
 Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 448 (Senator Hafer)
 Economic and Environmental Affairs

Off-Road Vehicles - Registration Fees

This bill sets a \$25 fee to register off-road vehicles for use on Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands. The bill specifies that \$15 of this fee is to be used to acquire and maintain areas for off-road vehicle use, and \$10 is to be used by the Wildlife Division of the department.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues would increase by approximately \$4,500 in FY 1998, which reflects the bill's October 1, 1997 effective date; out-year revenues reflect annualization and a constant number of registrations. Special fund expenditures increase by a commensurate amount.

(in dollars)	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
SF Revenues	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
SF Expenditures	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Currently, DNR charges a \$15 annual fee for permits to use off-road vehicle (ORV) trails on public lands. The money from this fee is used to purchase and maintain off-road trails. Under this bill, the total fee would increase to \$25, of which \$15 would continue

to be used for trails, and \$10 would be used by the Wildlife Division.

DNR sells approximately 600 ORV permits per year. A \$10 fee increase would increase annual special fund revenues by \$6,000; this additional money would be used by the Wildlife Division. For fiscal 1998 the revenues would increase by \$4,500 due to the bill's October 1, 1997 effective date. This assumes that the number of permits sold remains constant, and does not decrease due to the fee increase. Revenues could alter slightly should the fee increase affect demand, or if a change in the sport's popularity affect the number of individuals purchasing permits. Special fund expenditures on wildlife activities would presumably increase by a commensurate amount.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 1997

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