

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 179 (Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee)  
(Departmental - Transportation)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Vehicle Laws - Equipment for Motorcycle Riders**

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This departmental bill prohibits the manufacture for sale, sale, or distribution of any motorcycle helmet that does not meet Maryland Department of Transportation or federal safety standards for protective headgear. In addition, it prohibits a person from reproducing or affixing the DOT approved label on a helmet that does not meet the DOT or federally established standards.

The bill requires, rather than authorizes, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to adopt and enforce regulations establishing standards for approved helmets and eye-protective devices and repeals the requirement that the MVA publish lists of these items.

The bill is effective July 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not substantively change the MVA's operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Transportation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Fiscal Services concurs with this assessment as discussed below.

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## Fiscal Summary

**Small Business Effect:** Fiscal Services assumes that the prohibitions delineated in the bill would not materially affect small businesses engaged in the manufacture for sale, sale, or distribution of motorcycle helmets.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 23, 1997  
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Analysis by: Christina H. Kim  
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 841-3710  
(301) 858-3710