

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1259 (Delegate DeCarlo, *et al.*)
Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Driving Tests - Driver Performance Evaluation Pilot Program

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to develop a revised driving test that includes actual highway driving and to implement the revised test in a Driver Performance Evaluation Pilot in Harford, Baltimore, and Montgomery counties. The pilot program must include an evaluation of the revised driving test and a comparison with the current test that is offered to license applicants. The MVA must review the content of the current driving test and evaluate the effectiveness of the test to adequately measure the applicant's skill in driving under actual highway conditions.

The MVA is required to report to the General Assembly before January 1, 2000 on the results of the driving test review and the conclusions of the comparison between the revised test offered under the Driver Performance Evaluation Pilot Program and the current driving test. The bill sunsets on December 31, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by \$208,300 in FY 1998, which accounts for the October 1, 1997 effective date. Out-year estimates reflect inflation and the program's December 31, 1999 sunset date (FY 2000 indicates the final 6 months of the program's cost). Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
SF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditures	208,300	283,300	144,500	0	0
Net Effect	(\$208,300)	(\$283,300)	(\$144,500)	\$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 Expenditures: Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$208,300 in fiscal 1998, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 1997 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring 15 contractual employees to perform driving tests in Montgomery and Harford counties. It includes salaries and fringe benefits. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- in fiscal 1996, 34,612 driving tests were conducted in the Gaithersburg branch office (Montgomery County) and 12,148 tests were conducted in the Belair branch office (Harford County); and
- the MVA estimates that the road tests take up to 39 minutes longer than the current test which is conducted on a driving course.

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with 2% annual increases to account for inflation.

Baltimore County does not have a full-service MVA office, so driving tests are not currently given there. The MVA advises that driving tests could not be given until a driving course and driver licensing equipment were installed in an MVA branch office in Baltimore County. These costs could be significant.

The MVA can absorb the costs of development of the new test and the required report to the General Assembly with existing budgeted resources. All additional expenditures end on December 31, 1999 when the bill sunsets.

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

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