

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 639 (Senator Haines, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Judiciary

Vehicle Laws - Failure of Driver to Remain at Scene of Serious Accident - Penalties

This amended bill increases the penalties for drivers convicted of leaving the scene of an accident that results in death or serious bodily injury. The monetary penalty for a first offense increases from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The incarceration penalty for a first offense remains at one year as under current law. The monetary penalty for a second offense increases from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and the incarceration penalty increases from two to three years. For a third or subsequent offense, the monetary penalty increases from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and the incarceration penalty increases from three to four years.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the bill's increased penalty provisions.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase under the bill's increased monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's increased incarceration penalties due to people being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility for longer periods of time, depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Currently, the average sentence for this crime is 1.4 months.

Persons serving a sentence longer than one year are incarcerated in a DOC facility. In fiscal 1998 the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,500.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of Fiscal Services

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