

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 820 (Prince George's County and Montgomery County Delegations)
Commerce and Government Matters

Metrorail - Bicycles on Trains
PG/MC 33-98

This bill requires the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to: (1) adopt rules and regulations that encourage the use of Metrorail facilities by bicyclists; and (2) eliminate any requirement that a passenger take a test and obtain a photo identification in order to carry a bicycle on a Metrorail car.

This bill is not effective until similar acts are passed by the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate effect on State expenditures and revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Currently, WMATA requires passengers to take an exam, obtain a photo identification, and pay a \$15 permit fee, renewable every three years, in order to carry a bicycle on Metrorail facilities. Approximately 900 individuals hold such permits. WMATA would experience a minimal decrease in expenditures as they would be prohibited from administering exams or issuing photo identification by the requirements of the bill. The extent of any further effect on expenditures would depend upon the nature of the rules and regulations that the Authority would adopt.

To the extent that WMATA adopts rules and regulations that encourage the use of bicycles

on the Metrorail, there may be an indeterminate increase in ridership by bicyclists. This would lead to increased revenues from fares as well as increased revenues from the bicycle fee. WMATA currently collects approximately \$4,000 per year in permit fees. However, while the bill does not require a change of the \$15 fee, WMATA advises that they will change the annual fee to a one-time only fee.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 1998

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