

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 292 (Delegate Dembrow)

Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Aggressive Driving

This bill establishes the offense of aggressive driving. Aggressive driving is driving in a deliberately discourteous, intolerant, and impatient manner that evidences a pattern of dangerous conduct contributing to the likelihood of a collision or necessitating evasive action by another driver to avoid a collision. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$500. In addition, two points are assessed on the violator's driving record.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in special fund expenditures. Indeterminate general fund revenue increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. To the extent that drivers accumulate additional points on their driving record, small businesses that provide driver improvement programs may experience an indeterminate increase in business.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: There are two similar driving offenses, reckless driving and negligent driving. Reckless driving is driving in a wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property. Negligent driving is driving in a careless or imprudent manner that endangers persons or property. Both offenses carry a penalty of a maximum \$500 fine and four points and one point, respectively. In fiscal 1997 there were 3,747 reckless driving violations and 13,613 negligent driving violations. The number of violations resulting in conviction is not

readily available. The number of aggressive driving violations that may occur in addition to the current offenses is unknown. Any increase in general fund revenue is assumed to be minimal.

Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase minimally to the extent that the MVA would be required to mail additional point system warning letters and suspension letters to those individuals who accumulate a certain number of points.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of State Police, Judiciary (The District Court), Department of Legislative Services

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