

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 34 (Delegate V. Mitchell)

Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - School Buses - Pickup and Discharge of Students

This bill requires a school bus to pick up or discharge a student on the side of the highway on which the student lives, if the bus stop is on a four-lane highway.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. State regulations governing student transportation (COMAR 13A.06.07.11D) already require public school bus operators to pick up and discharge students, whose bus stop is on a four-lane highway, on the side of the highway on which the student lives. Assuming all school districts are in compliance with this existing regulation, the bill would not affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: While the Maryland State Department of Education has already promulgated regulations identical to the bill's provisions, these regulations do not apply to school buses operated by private schools. It is estimated that approximately 850 school buses are operated for private schools. If private schools are not in compliance with existing regulations that govern public schools, they may have to restructure their school bus routes thus resulting in additional expenses. However, it is assumed that most school bus operators do not allow students to cross a four-lane highway.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland School Bus Contractors Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 1998
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