

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 885 (Delegate Snodgrass)

Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Fines Doubled for Speeding - Designated Zones

This bill authorizes a county or municipal roads department to designate sections of highways as “fines doubled for speeding” zones. The county must obtain permission to establish the zone if the section of highway is under the jurisdiction of either the State Highway Administration (SHA) or the municipality. The municipality also must obtain permission to establish the zone if the section of highway is under the jurisdiction of either SHA or the county. Those individuals convicted of exceeding the posted speed limit in these zones will be subject to fines double that would otherwise apply. The increased fines would only be in effect if signs are posted on the section of highway indicating the zone.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate general fund revenue increase from the increased penalty provision. Transportation Trust Fund finances would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in expenditures.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Currently, speeding violations carry fines ranging from \$60 to \$520 depending upon the miles per hour in excess of the speed limit. The bill would increase the fines to range from \$120 to \$1,040 in the designated zones. In fiscal 1997, there were 391,108 various speeding violations. General fund revenue would increase to the extent that speeding violations occur in the designated zones. However, any revenue increase is expected to be minimal.

Local Expenditures: The bill authorizes local jurisdictions to designate certain sections of highway as “fines doubled for speeding” zones. It would cost a local jurisdiction

approximately \$110 to purchase a sign to indicate the zone. Local expenditures would increase to the extent that counties and municipalities choose to designate such zones on highways in their jurisdiction.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (State Highway Administration, Motor Vehicle Administration); Judiciary (The District Court); Carroll, Cecil, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Harford counties; Baltimore City; City of Laurel; City of Greenbelt; Town of Sykesville; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 1998

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