

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1185 (Delegate Owings. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Motorcycle Helmets - Minors

This bill provides that motorcycle helmet laws apply only to minors. Current law requires everyone riding or operating a motorcycle to wear a helmet.

The bill is effective July 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures and federal fund revenues. Minimal decrease in general fund revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase for injured motorcyclists who are Medicaid recipients. The average number of motorcycle accidents per year involving Medicaid recipients is 46. The average cost for Medicaid recipients treated for motorcycle related injuries is \$27,900 per patient. It is not known what the costs for head and neck injuries alone would be, although such costs are expected to be higher. Under the Medicaid program, 50% of any additional Medicaid expenditures are reimbursable by federal funds. General fund expenditures could also increase as a result of motorcyclists who sustain brain injuries and who become clients of the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Such expenditures cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

In fiscal 1997, there were 295 violations of operating or riding on a motorcycle without the

protective headgear. This violation carries a \$60 fine. General fund revenues will decrease minimally as fewer tickets would be issued.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Judiciary (The District Court), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 1998

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