

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 746 (Delegate Mandel. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Driver Education - Standardized Classroom Phase Curriculum and Increased Hours of Laboratory Instruction

This bill increases from six to eight hours the amount of driver education laboratory instruction that an individual under 18 years of age must complete in order to be issued a driver's license. Further, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must include a standardized curriculum for the driver education laboratory phase and for all driver education programs based on the "Novice Driver Education Model Curriculum Outline" prepared for the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The MVA could handle the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Local Effect: Minimal. School districts that provide driver training would experience a minimal increase in costs.

Small Business Effect: None. Small businesses that provide driver education courses would experience an increase in costs to fulfill the requirements of the bill. However, any such increase could be offset by an increase in fees.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Garrett County has the only school system in the State that provides driver education courses in the normal curriculum without a fee to the student. In fiscal 1997, the budget for Garrett County driver education was \$131,000. Expenditures of the Garrett County school system will increase minimally as the bill requires a greater number of hours for laboratory instruction and a specified curriculum.

The school systems in Allegany, Baltimore, Calvert, and Prince George's counties each charge a fee to the student in order to take the driver education course. Any increase in expenditures for these school systems could be offset by an increase in the course fee.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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