

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 88 (Senator Dvson. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Animal Friendly License Plates

This bill requires the Governor to appoint a six-member committee to design an emblem or logo for organizational license plates, issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), for use by animal humane societies or similar organizations. The organizational license plate should enhance public awareness of the State's commitment to manage the population of dogs and cats and help subsidize the efforts of the organizations to humanely sterilize dogs and cats. The bill sunsets on June 30, 1999. It is the intent of the General Assembly that, following the adoption of the emblem or logo by the committee, any animal humane society or similar organization may apply to the MVA for an organizational license plate using the logo in combination with the name of the organization or a slogan approved by MVA.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate increase in offsetting special fund revenues and expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. The revenues of animal welfare organizations could increase to the extent that they participate in the MVA's organizational license plate program.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Organizations may apply to the MVA for an organizational plate that displays the emblem and the name of the organization. The organization may collect a fee from any person seeking to display the plate. The fee is collected directly by the organization and is in addition to the fee charged by the MVA. The MVA currently collects a one-time fee of \$15 for each organizational plate issued without a logo and \$25 for a plate with a logo. These fees are to cover the costs for producing and distributing the plates. Currently, there are 401 organizations that have been issued such plates. The level of interest that could be generated

by a new type of organizational plate cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

The MVA advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an indeterminate amount to modify the computer programs to recognize the new organizational plate. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that if other legislation is passed requiring computer reprogramming changes, economies of scale could be realized. This would reduce computer programming costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the MVA system. However, any such costs associated with the new plate would not be incurred until fiscal 2000 following the approval of an emblem or logo by the committee.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration),
Department of Legislative Services

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