

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 989 (Delegate Baldwin. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Aggressive Drivers

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to assess points on all charges for which an “aggressive driver” is convicted up to a maximum of 12 points. An aggressive driver is defined as a person who is convicted of: (1) four or more violations that carry points arising out of simultaneous circumstances; or (2) three violations that carry points arising out of simultaneous circumstances if one of the offenses was exceeding the maximum speed limit by at least 30 miles per hour. A police officer may arrest an individual without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe that the individual is an aggressive driver as defined by the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate increase in Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures for postage, administrative hearings, and computer programming. TTF revenues could increase in the future by an indeterminate amount based on the number of license reinstatements.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. To the extent that drivers accumulate additional points on their driving records, small businesses that provide driver improvement programs may experience an indeterminate increase in business.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The bill will increase the number of license suspensions and revocations issued by the MVA. TTF expenditures could increase to the extent that the MVA would be required to mail additional point system suspension and revocations letters to those individuals that accumulate a certain number of points. However, it is unclear how many individuals would be classified as an aggressive driver and therefore subject to

cumulative points. It is assumed that MVA could handle the additional requirements with existing personnel.

It costs the MVA approximately \$62 in reimbursable funds to the Office of Administrative Hearings for each hearing. It is expected that the bill will increase the number of hearings requested, although the number of additional hearings that may be held to contest license suspensions and revocations is uncertain. To the extent that individuals with suspended and revoked licenses request hearings, TTF expenditures could increase.

The MVA advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$30,000 to modify the computer programs to assess points on more than one charge as required by the bill. 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. Further, DLS advises that the increased computer expenditure is simply an estimate and the MVA may be able to handle the changes with either less money than it estimates or existing resources.

State Revenues: The MVA charges a \$45 fee to process forms in order to reinstate a revoked license. It also charges a \$20 fee to create the new license. TTF revenues could increase in future years based on the number of individuals whose licenses were revoked and subsequently reinstated.

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

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