

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 9 (Senator Boozer)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Changing Lanes - Lane Must Be Clear

This bill prohibits a vehicle driver from changing lanes or moving from a shoulder or bikeway into a lane until the lane is clear and does not present a danger to another vehicle.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential general fund revenue increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: In fiscal 1997 there were 6,873 violations of the current law which prohibits a driver from changing lanes until the driver has determined that it is safe to do so. This violation carries a fine of \$70. The District Court does not record the number of these violations that result in convictions.

This bill creates a different standard that does not rely on the driver's determination that it is safe to change lanes. To the extent that the bill's changes result in an increase in the number of convictions, general fund revenues could increase. However, the number of additional convictions that may occur under this bill is unknown.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of State

Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 1998

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