

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 710 (Senator Baker. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

---

**Vehicle Laws - Aggressive Driving - Penalties**

---

This bill establishes the offense of aggressive driving. A person is guilty of aggressive driving if that person exceeds the speed limit and also commits two or more specified offenses at the same time or during a single and continuous period of driving. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment of up to two months. In addition, five points are assessed on the violator's driving record.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increases in general fund revenue and special fund expenditures.

**Local Effect:** The criminal penalty provisions of this bill are not expected to materially affect local finances or operations.

**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 Effect:** General fund revenue could increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Any increase is assumed to be minimal. The imprisonment penalty provision of this bill is not expected to significantly affect State expenditures or operations.

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) suspends the driver's licenses of individuals who accumulate eight points on their driving records. The bill establishes aggressive driving as a

five point offense. Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures could increase minimally to the extent that the MVA would be required to mail additional suspension letters to those individuals that accumulate a certain number of points due to aggressive driving convictions.

It costs the MVA approximately \$88 in reimbursable funds to the Office of Administrative Hearings for each MVA hearing. The number of additional hearings that may be held to contest license suspensions is uncertain. To the extent that individuals with suspended licenses request hearings, TTF expenditures could increase.

The MVA advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$10,000 to modify the computer programs to allow for a new violation code. 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.

---

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 1999  
ncs/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 22, 1999

---

Analysis by: Jody J. Minnich  
Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510