

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 43 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee)
(Departmental - Transportation)

Judicial Proceedings

Commercial Vehicles - Safety Inspections

This departmental bill expands the authority of trained personnel from the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division of the State Police to enter the premises of motor carriers that are subject to the regulations relating to the Preventative Maintenance Program or the transportation of hazardous materials. Employees may inspect, review, or copy: (1) any record required by statute; (2) driver qualification files; (3) hours of service records; (4) drug and alcohol testing records of drivers required to be tested; and (5) insurance records. The bill specifies that law enforcement officers who conduct safety inspections must be certified to do so by the State Police.

Further, the bill makes clarifying and corrective changes to the law governing commercial vehicle safety inspections.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund fine revenue. No effect on expenditures as enforcement could be handled with existing personnel.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Transportation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: In fiscal 1998 approximately 3,400 inspections were performed on the premises of motor carriers under the Preventative Maintenance Program. As a result, 222 citations were issued with fines ranging from \$45 to \$520. Expanding the types of records that may be inspected under the program will provide a greater opportunity for the discovery of additional safety violations. Accordingly, fine revenue could increase, although any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of State Police, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 1999
ncs/jr

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