

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 44 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee)
(Departmental - Transportation)

Judicial Proceedings

Commercial Vehicles - Ban on Hazardous Material Hauling for Combination Trailers - Repeal

This departmental bill repeals a provision that prohibits semitrailers in combination with a truck tractor between 48 feet and 53 feet in length from carrying specified hazardous materials, including Class A or B explosives, poison gas, flammable gas, flammable liquids when carried as cargo, flammable solids if dangerous when wet, radioactive materials, and uranium hexofluoride.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal impact on general fund revenues and expenditures.

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 Effect: A fine was collected on only 2 violations of this provision in fiscal 1998. Accordingly, repealing the ban will not materially affect general fund fine revenue. In addition to the fine, enforcement of this provision generally entails a shipper to “off load” the hazardous materials on to a commercial vehicle that is allowed to ship such materials under current law. There are occasional spills associated with the “off loading” process. Such spills and related clean-up costs would be reduced by allowing the transportation of

hazardous materials on truck-trailer combinations over 48 feet. Maryland is currently the only state with this ban.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 1999

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