

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 478 (Senators Teitelbaum and Ferguson)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Multiple Moving Violations - Cumulative Assessment of Points

This bill provides that if an individual is convicted of reckless driving and 1 or more specified violations arising out of the same incident, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must assess points on each conviction. Under current law the MVA must assess points only on the charge with the highest point assessment.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate increase in Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures for personnel, postage, administrative hearings, and computer programming. TTF revenues could increase 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: In fiscal 1998, there were 4,047 violations of reckless driving. It is not known how many of these violations were charged in conjunction with a violation from the list of specified traffic infractions in the bill. TTF expenditures could increase to the extent that the MVA would be required to mail additional certified point system suspension and revocation letters to those individuals who accumulate a certain number of points. Any such costs are assumed to be minimal. Additionally, it is likely that overtime costs would be incurred due to the increase in workload for customer service representatives.

It is assumed that this bill will increase the number of license revocations. Based on current MVA workloads, 1 MVA employee can process roughly 900 license reinstatement applications annually. Should the number of revocations and subsequent reinstatements reach this level due to the bill, the MVA would require an additional employee at an approximate cost of \$34,000 annually. However, it cannot be reliably estimated how many revocations would occur due to the cumulative assessment of points.

The MVA advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$20,000 to modify the computer programs to assess cumulative points in certain cases. 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.

It costs the MVA approximately \$88 in reimbursable funds to the Office of Administrative Hearings for each MVA 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.

State Revenues: The MVA charges a \$45 fee to process forms in order to reinstate a license which was revoked due to non-alcohol related offenses and \$75 to reinstate a license revoked for alcohol/drug related offenses. They charge 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 (District Court of Maryland), Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of Legislative Services

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