

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1010 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Commerce and Government Matters

**State Highway Administration - Controlled Access Highways -
Service Signage Program
PG 410-00**

This bill modifies the current informational sign program and expands the authority of the State Highway Administration (SHA) to place service signs informing motorists of attractions as well as other services along State controlled access highways. SHA is to consult with local government officials and the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) concerning the placement of service signs along State controlled access highways.

SHA is required to adopt regulations in consultation with the Maryland Travel Council Association governing specific service signs. The regulations must also ensure conformity with federal standards.

Additionally, SHA must prepare a report for the Governor and the General Assembly on the installation of service signs along State controlled access highways by January 9, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: SHA and DBED could handle any duties related to the bill with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. The costs related to service sign installation and maintenance will be borne by the business or attraction identified on the sign.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. The bill would give small businesses that participate in the road signage pilot program an additional source of advertising. The greater visibility may lead to an increased customer base which may ultimately result in greater

revenues.

Analysis

Current Law: The SHA is authorized to place signs on highways that provide information to the driving public on the availability of gas, food, lodging, or camping. The law requires SHA to adopt regulations, in consultation with the Maryland Travel Council, governing the information or business signs. The business or attraction identified in a specific information or business sign is to pay for the full administrative and operational cost of procurement, installation, and maintenance of the sign. Any person who removes, damages, or defaces any sign, signal, or marker is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 586, was introduced in the 1999 session and received an unfavorable report from the Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2000
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