

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1281 (Delegate Burns)

Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Registration Plates - Display of Owner's County of Residence

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to offer to each vehicle owner who applies for registration plates the option to select registration plates that display the owner's county of residence. The MVA must approve a registration plate design that displays the name of the county, including Baltimore City, in addition to current display requirements. The MVA may charge a fee in addition to the annual registration fee that will allow it to recover costs to issue the new registration plates.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Increase in offsetting Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues and expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each registration plate must display the registration number assigned to the vehicle and the name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

State Fiscal Effect: The level of interest that could be generated by this new county registration plate cannot be reliably estimated at this time. The MVA may set a fee that will allow it to recover its costs. Currently, the MVA charges \$25 for organization registration plates with logos, in addition to the annual vehicle registration fee. It is estimated that one set of the county registration plates, including materials, design, and postage would cost

approximately \$10. Accordingly, those electing to display county registration plates will be subject to a \$10 fee in addition to the \$35 annual vehicle registration fee.

The MVA advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$50,000 to modify its computer programs for the new tag format. 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 either with less money than it estimates or with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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