

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 52 (Delegates K. Kelly and Arnick)

Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Overtaking and Passing Vehicles

This bill requires a driver of a vehicle in the far left lane of a roadway with two or more lanes moving in the same direction to give way to the right in favor of an overtaking vehicle when it is safe and practical to do so. This requirement does not apply to a vehicle in the far left lane that is preparing for a left turn.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal general fund revenue increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A vehicle that is overtaking another vehicle must do so to the left of the overtaken vehicle at a safe distance. There are no provisions for a slower moving vehicle in the left lane to yield to another vehicle.

Background: There are 21 states with provisions that reserve the left lane for passing, including the surrounding states of Virginia and New Jersey.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill that reserved the left lane for passing was introduced in the 1999 session as HB 932 and received an unfavorable report from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2000
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