

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1242 (Delegate Menes. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

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**Courts - Civil Citations - Parking and Other Related Traffic Infractions**

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This bill provides that specified parking and parking related offenses are traffic infractions, which are civil offenses and not criminal offenses. The Chief Judge of the District Court, in consultation with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), may adopt rules for the disposition of a citation for a traffic infraction. An individual that violates a traffic infraction is subject to a civil fine of up to \$500 or an amount provided by another provision of law for the specific traffic infraction. The individual may also be subject to court costs.

This bill must only be construed prospectively and may not be applied to any citation issued before October 1, 2000.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect State revenues or expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The violations specified by the bill are criminal violations under the Maryland Vehicle Law and are subject to a maximum fine of \$500. The Chief Judge of the District Court has set the fines for the specified violations ranging from \$30 to \$120.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The bill allows the civil fine penalties to be set at a maximum of \$500 which is consistent with the current criminal motor vehicle law. It is assumed that civil fines would be set at a similar level to current fines for each specified offense. Accordingly,

general fund fine revenue should not be materially affected.

Only four of the enumerated offenses carry a penalty other than a monetary fine. If an individual violates the snow emergency route parking prohibitions, special disability plate provisions, or permanent or temporary disability placard provisions, that individual is subject to an assessment of points on his/her driver's license. Civil infractions are not subject to point assessments. However, because there are so few violations of these provisions each year, it is not likely to reduce the workload of the MVA.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2000  
nlr/jr

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