

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 462 (Senator Stoltzfus)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Disabled Veterans - Parking Privileges

This bill grants a disabled veteran parking privileges reserved for individuals with disabilities if the veteran: (1) is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who qualifies for a registration fee exemption; and (2) is operating or is a passenger in a vehicle displaying disabled veteran organizational plates. The individual must possess identification to prove that the individual is entitled to the parking privileges and may not commit fraud or make any misrepresentation in using the parking privileges.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal impact on general fund revenue due to a decrease in parking meter fees and an increase in fine revenue.

Local Effect: Potential minimal decrease in revenues to the extent that additional individuals may park at locally operated metered spots without paying the meter fee.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Individuals with disabilities who have special registration plates or parking permits have special parking privileges, such as: (1) parking in reserved spaces; (2) parking for unlimited periods in parking zones restricted to the length of parking time permitted; and (3) parking at meters without paying fees.

A veteran qualifies for an exemption from vehicle registration fees if the veteran: (1) has lost the use of a hand, arm, or leg, or is totally disabled as designated or classified by the

Veterans' Administration; or (2) has a specified permanent impairment of both eyes.

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) issues special registration plates for members of non-profit organizations that meet specified requirements. One such organization is the Disabled American Veterans.

State Fiscal Effect: Some State-owned facilities such as universities operate parking meters. To the extent that the bill increases the number of individuals that are not required to pay a parking meter fee, general fund revenues could decrease. However, general fund revenue could increase minimally from the penalty associated with committing fraud or making any misrepresentation in using the parking privileges allowed by the bill. Under the Maryland Vehicle Law, the maximum fine is \$500.

The MVA interprets the bill to mean that the MVA must have new plates available for any organization member that has special plates and is eligible as a disabled veteran. The MVA advises that the new plates would show the universal symbol for a disabled driver. The MVA advises that Transportation Trust Fund expenditures would increase by \$94,000 in fiscal 2001 to stock the new tags. The Department of Legislative Services, however, notes that the bill specifies that the only organizational plates that would qualify the driver for the parking privileges would be plates that already indicate that the individual is a disabled veteran, such as the Disabled American Veteran plates. There are 1,043 vehicles that currently display Disabled American Veteran plates.

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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