

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 443 (Delegates K. Kelly and Vallario)

Judiciary

Alcohol Ignition Interlock System Program - Qualification for Driver's License

This bill allows the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to issue a "Maryland only" driver's license to an individual whose license was suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction as a result of a drunk-driving related conviction if: (1) the MVA imposes an alcohol restriction on the license; and (2) the licensee participates in the Ignition Interlock System Program for at least one year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any increase in Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures and revenues depends upon the increase in the number of participants in the Ignition Interlock System Program. For illustrative purposes only, personnel expenditures would increase by about \$38,000 annually for every 900 additional participants in the program.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The MVA may not issue a driver's license to an individual during any period for which the individual's license to drive is revoked, suspended, refused, or canceled in this or any other state. The MVA may, however, issue a Maryland only driver's license if the individual's license was suspended in another jurisdiction as a result of failing to comply with the financial requirements of that jurisdiction.

The ignition interlock system is a device that connects a motor vehicle ignition system to a breath analyzer that measures a driver's blood alcohol level and prevents a motor vehicle

from starting if a driver's blood alcohol level exceeds the calibrated setting on the device.

State Expenditures: In fiscal 1999, 541 individuals requested admittance into the ignition interlock system program. About 2,000 additional individuals are ordered into the program by the courts and through administrative and medical advisory board hearings each year. Currently, individuals whose out-of-state driver's licenses have been suspended or revoked are denied a Maryland driver's license. The bill is likely to increase the number of individuals requesting admittance into the program, although the magnitude of any such increase is not known at this time.

However, for each additional 900 participants in the program, the MVA would require an additional administrative specialist to review applications and to monitor the additional participants. The cost for one such employee would be \$31,500 in fiscal 2001, including salary, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. Future year expenditures would be approximately \$38,000 and reflect full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover and 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

The MVA advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$40,000 to modify the computer programs to establish a new record keeping mechanism. 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.

State Revenues: The MVA charges a \$20 fee to issue a corrected license to reflect that the licensee is a participant in the Ignition Interlock System Program. To the extent that additional individuals participate in the program, TTF revenues could increase.

Additional Comments: Maryland is a member of the Drivers License Compact. It is a multi-state agreement designed to promote compliance with the laws, ordinances, and administrative sanctions regarding the operation of motor vehicles. The bill's provisions may leave the State in violation of the compact.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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