

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1263 (Delegate Menes. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Vehicle Laws - Changing and Entering Lanes of Divided Roadways

This bill prohibits a vehicle driver from changing lanes or entering a lane on a divided roadway until it is safe to do so.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal general fund revenue increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A driver is prohibited from changing lanes or entering a lane on a divided roadway until the driver determines that it is safe to do so.

State Revenues: In fiscal 1999, there were 7,926 citations issued under the current law that prohibits a driver from changing or entering lanes on a divided roadway until the driver has determined that it is safe to do so. This violation carries a fine of \$70.

This bill creates a different standard that does not rely on the driver's determination that it is safe to change or enter lanes. To the extent that the bill's changes result in an increase in the

number of citations issued and subsequent convictions, general fund revenues could increase. The number of additional citations and convictions that may occur under this bill is unknown but is assumed to be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced in the 1991 session as SB 416 and received an unfavorable report from the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2000

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