

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 334 (Delegate Hutchins. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

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Highways - Prohibition on Use for Solicitations

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This bill authorizes the State Highway Administration (SHA) or any local authority to prohibit the use of a controlled access highway by a person soliciting money, donations, employment, business, or a ride from the occupant of any vehicle on the highway. The bill further prohibits a person from standing in a roadway to solicit money or donations of any kind from an occupant of a vehicle.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund fine revenue. Potential minimal increase in Transportation Trust Fund expenditures to install signs.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in expenditures to install signs.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** SHA or a local jurisdiction may prohibit the use of a controlled access highway by parades, funeral processions, bicycles, other nonmotorized traffic, or any person operating a motorcycle.

A person may not stand in a roadway to solicit a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of a vehicle. Offenders of this provision are subject to a fine of \$50.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The bill adds soliciting for money or donations to the list of prohibited activities on a roadway. General fund revenue could increase from the penalty provision

applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Any increase is assumed to be minimal. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Should the SHA elect to prohibit the use of a controlled access highway by a person soliciting money, donations, employment, business, or a ride from the occupant of any vehicle on the highway, costs could increase to install signs along the highway alerting drivers to the prohibition. It is estimated that such signs would cost approximately \$250 each.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local jurisdictions that elect to prohibit the use of highways as described by the bill would be responsible for erecting signs alerting drivers to the prohibition. Any such costs are assumed to be minimal.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation (State Highway Administration); Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Washington counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2000  
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