

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 404 (Senator Dvson. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

**Vehicle Laws - License Restriction for a Minor - Prohibition Against Minors as
Passengers**

This bill prohibits a licensed driver under the age of 18 from driving with a passenger under the age of 18 (except specified relatives) for 180 days after the driver's license is issued. A police officer may only enforce this provision as a secondary violation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Increase in Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures of \$84,000 annually to reissue driver's licenses. Potential minimal increases in TTF expenditures for computer programming and overtime for personnel. Minimal increase in general fund fine revenue.

Local Effect: None. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There are no restrictions on the number of passengers in a vehicle except in cases where the passengers obstruct the view of the driver or interfere with the control of the driver over the vehicle.

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Because the violation can only be enforced as a secondary violation and the number of drivers under 18 is a small percentage of the driving population, any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

State Expenditures: The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) issues approximately 42,000 provisional driver's licenses each year. The restriction provided by the bill would be in effect for the first six months of the one-year term of the provisional license. The MVA would need to reissue the provisional license after six months to remove the restriction. Reissuing a license costs the MVA approximately \$2 for supplies. Assuming that 42,000 licenses will be reissued, TTF expenditures will increase by \$84,000 per year.

Additionally, the MVA estimates that the bill will result in overtime costs of \$35,360 in fiscal 2001 to reissue the provisional licenses in order to remove the restriction. However, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that all the MVA branches may not be operating at full capacity. It is possible that some of the additional work could be performed without paying overtime.

The MVA advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$10,000 to modify the computer programs to add a new restriction code. 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 with either less money than it estimates or existing resources. The MVA could impose the license restriction with existing staffing resources.

Enforcement could be performed with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced in the 1999 session as SB 597 and received an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

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nncsjr

Analysis by: Jody J. Minnich

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510