

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 464 (Senator Colburn)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Vehicle Laws - Noise Limitations - Penalty**

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This bill repeals the civil penalty for operating a motor vehicle while that vehicle's sound amplification system can be heard outside the vehicle from 50 or more feet. The bill replaces the civil penalty with a criminal penalty under the Maryland Vehicle Law. A violation of the noise limitation provisions is not considered a moving violation, meaning no points may be assessed on the offender's driving record.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal general fund revenue increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine) to the extent that the criminal penalty set by the Chief Judge of the District Court is higher than the current civil penalty. Minimal administrative savings for the District Court.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An individual who violates the sound amplification provision is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Criminal traffic offenses carry a fine of up to \$500. The Chief Judge of the District Court determines the fine schedule for traffic offenses. General fund revenues

could increase to the extent that the criminal penalty set by the Chief Judge of the District Court is higher than the current civil penalty of \$50.

The District Court processes all criminal and civil traffic offenses. However, the court does not have an automated processing system for civil violations. All such cases must be processed by hand. Accordingly, changing a civil infraction to a criminal infraction will result in administrative efficiencies and savings for the District Court.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation, Judiciary (District Court), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2000  
cm/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 24, 2000

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