

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1215 (Delegate Barlett. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Task Force to Study Deer-Vehicle Collisions

This bill establishes a seven-member Task Force to Study Deer-Vehicle Collisions. The task force must: (1) study information on increased deer populations and how they have impacted deer-vehicle collisions in the State; (2) identify the communities that have an increased number of deer-vehicle collisions; (3) study the effectiveness of “game warning reflector” type roadway installments and fencing; (4) implement a pilot program to test game warning reflectors; (5) determine the location of the installments; and (6) determine the duration of the study. The Governor must include provisions for funding the installation of ten miles of game warning reflectors in the State budget for fiscal 2002. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2003. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) must provide primary staff support to the task force.

The bill sunsets on June 30, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase of an estimated \$100,000 in FY 2002 to purchase and install ten miles of game warning reflectors. Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DNR and MDOT are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: DNR has developed a comprehensive plan for managing deer populations in the State. The goal of the plan is to ensure that deer are conserved at levels compatible with the health of other natural resources and in a manner consistent with the health, safety, and well-being of Maryland residents. As part of the plan, DNR has developed a geographic information system to track deer-vehicle collisions in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

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