

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 156 (Senator Della)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems - Funeral Processions

This bill requires an agency that controls a traffic control signal monitoring system to include with its citation a form to be used by individuals that claim to have been part of a funeral procession. The form must include: (1) a statement claiming that the vehicle was passing through the intersection as part of a funeral procession; (2) the name of the deceased; (3) the name of the funeral home; and (4) a statement that by signing the form, the person claiming this defense affirms under penalty of perjury that the facts indicated in the form are true.

The District Court must dismiss the citation upon receipt of a properly completed form unless there is evidence rebutting any information on the form. A person whose citation is dismissed may not be required to appear in court.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in expenditures for those jurisdictions that operate traffic control signal monitoring systems to revise and print forms as required by the bill. Revenues are not expected to be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Driving in a funeral procession is one of the enumerated defenses that the District Court may consider in a case concerning a citation resulting from a traffic control signal monitoring system.

Background: Chapter 315 of 1997 authorizes local governments or a State agency to issue a citation or warning for running a red light based on evidence collected by a traffic control monitoring system and provides for a maximum civil penalty of \$100. Currently, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, Baltimore City, and six other municipalities operate such systems.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (The District Court), Department of State Police, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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