

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

**Revised**

House Bill 127      (Delegate Mandel. *et al.*)  
                              (Task Force on Driver's Education Programs in Maryland)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Drivers' Licenses - Graduated Licensing System - Provisional License Restrictions**

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This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to impose on each provisional drivers' license a restriction that prohibits a licensee from operating a motor vehicle if each occupant is not restrained by a seat belt or child safety seat.

Those individuals holding a provisional license that was issued before the effective date of the bill are not subject to the provisions of the bill as long as the provisional license remains in effect.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in general fund revenue from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** All drivers and passengers are required to wear seat belts in the front seat of a vehicle. Additionally, any passenger under 16 years of age, regardless of where seated, must be restrained by either a seat belt or child safety seat.

**Background:** During the 1998 session, the General Assembly established a new graduated licensing system to address the high accident rate involving new drivers attributable to immaturity and inexperience. The new graduated licensing system took effect July 1, 1999. The seat belt restrictions proposed under this bill were initially recommended by the Graduated Licensing Initiative Work Group, which developed a proposed Graduated Licensed System in 1997. However, the General Assembly eliminated the seat belt restrictions, along with other changes, prior to enactment of the Graduated Licensing System during the 1998 session.

**State Revenues:** There are approximately 41,000 provisional driver's licenses issued each year, and there is a \$50 fine for driving a vehicle in violation of a license restriction. To the extent that provisional licensees violate the seat belt and passenger restrictions, general fund revenue could increase. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 152 (Senator Middleton, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 31, 2000  
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 27, 2000  
Revised - Corrected - March 27, 2000

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