

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 1368 (Delegate Hutchins. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Motor Vehicles - Reckless Driving - Penalties

This bill increases to six the number of points that the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must assess against an individual who is convicted of reckless driving.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures would increase by \$32,600 in FY 2001, exclusive of costs for administrative hearings. Future years reflect inflation, annualization, and ongoing personnel expenditures. TTF revenues would increase minimally for fees associated with revoked licenses.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
SF Revenues	-	-	-	-	-
SF Expenditures	\$32,600	\$38,100	\$39,900	\$41,700	\$43,700
Net Effect	(\$32,600)	(\$38,100)	(\$39,900)	(\$41,700)	(\$43,700)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. To the extent that drivers accumulate additional points on their driving records, small businesses that provide driver improvement programs may experience an increase in business.

Analysis

Current Law: Reckless driving is driving in a wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property or in a manner that indicates a wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property. The violation carries an administrative penalty of four points, with a criminal fine set by the court of \$270.

State Expenditures: In fiscal 1999, there were 4,377 violations of reckless driving. The bill increases the number of points for reckless driving from four to six. As under current law, the MVA must send a licensee who accumulates five points within a two-year period to a point system conference, must suspend the license of any individual who accumulates eight points in a two-year period, and must revoke the license at 12 points. A four-point violation as the only charge on a driving record requires only a warning letter. Increasing the point assessment as required by the bill will necessitate either a point system conference or a suspension or revocation action by the MVA, which entails multiple correspondence, hearing preparation, and other related duties. TTF expenditures thus could increase by an estimated \$32,600 in fiscal 2001, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2000, effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one administrative specialist to process the additional suspensions and revocations. It includes salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$26,600
Operating Expenses	<u>6,000</u>
FY 2001 TTF Personnel Expenditures	\$32,600

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

It costs the MVA approximately \$92 in reimbursable funds for each MVA hearing conducted by the Office of Administrative Hearings. The number of hearings that may be administered to contest license suspensions and revocations is uncertain. To the extent that an individual with a suspended or revoked license requests a hearing, TTF expenditures could increase.

State Revenues: The MVA charges a \$45 fee to process forms to reinstate a revoked license. It charges a \$20 fee to create the new license. TTF revenues could increase minimally in future years based on the number of individuals whose licenses were revoked and subsequently reinstated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2000
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