

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 170 (Delegate Cryor, *et al.*)
Judiciary

**Crimes - Vehicular Manslaughter and Homicide by Motor Vehicle While
Intoxicated - Penalties**

This bill alters penalties for a person convicted of manslaughter by automobile or homicide by motor vehicle or vessel while intoxicated. Specifically, the bill subjects such felony offenders to the current law maximum imprisonment and a mandatory minimum fine of \$5,000 or just a fine. The bill provides that the fine may not be suspended. In addition, the bill requires that the mandatory minimum fine be paid over to the victim's immediate family after the fine is paid to the court.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. While the bill eliminates the possibility of imposition of a sentence of incarceration without a fine, the number of people remanded to the custody of the Division of Correction for these offenses should not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential minimal revenue decreases due to the redirection of fine revenue to victims' families. In FY 2000, there were 12 convictions of vehicular manslaughter 15 convictions of homicide by motor vehicle while intoxicated. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Persons convicted of vehicular manslaughter are subject to maximum penalties of a fine of \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for ten years; persons convicted of the homicide charge are subject to maximum penalties of a fine of \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for five years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill (HB 543) was introduced during the 1999 session and received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 8, 2001
ef/cr

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