

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 430 (Delegate McIntosh)

Commerce and Government Matters

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**State Police - Driver Distraction Information - Collection and Reporting**

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This bill requires the Maryland State Police to use the Maryland Automated Accident Reporting System to collect information relating to driver distractions as contributing causes of traffic accidents.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditure increase of \$90,300 in FY 2002 only, which reflects computer reprogramming and printing costs for the Department of State Police. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** Specifically, the bill requires the State Police, from July 1, 2001 through September 30, 2003, to collect information via the use of the Maryland Automated Accident Reporting System (MAARS) that reflects whether any of the following acts by a driver at fault in a traffic accident were contributing causes:

- using a cell phone;
- using other personal communication technologies;

- reading or writing;
- smoking, or consuming food or beverage; or
- personal grooming.

The information is also required to be organized by county and local jurisdiction. The State Police must report the information quarterly to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The MVA is required to report on the information to the General Assembly by December 15, 2003.

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**State Expenditures:** This bill requires the capturing of specific information relating to drivers involved in motor vehicle accidents through the use of MAARS, which is administered by the Criminal Records Division of the State Police. MAARS is employed to collect and prepare statistics and data on traffic accidents statewide investigated by all of the State's police agencies. Programming for this data collection does not now include categories of information required under this bill.

Accordingly, this bill would result in additional general fund expenditures for the State Police in fiscal 2002 that would include \$15,300 for costs associated with MAARS reprogramming and testing, and \$75,000 in printing costs for 15,000 new MAARS use manuals for distribution to all police officers in the State involved in traffic enforcement and investigations. These costs would total \$90,300 for fiscal 2002. While the State Police reports that out-year costs for fiscal 2003 and 2004 are unknown, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that any such continuing costs would be minimal and would be able to be absorbed with existing budgeted resources for the agency.

DLS advises that the reporting requirements for this bill attributable to the MVA should be able to be absorbed with existing budgeted resources. The MVA reports that, depending on format of the information received from the State Police, these requirements could result in additional general fund expenditures of approximately \$10,000 for contractual assistance to analyze the information and compile the report. However, DLS advises that such costs could be reduced by coordinating all of the bill's requirements with the State Police.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 18, 2001  
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