

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1402 (Delegates Donoghue and Shank)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Motor Scooters

This bill requires an individual operating a moped or “motor scooter” on any highway in the State to have with the individual a driver’s license or moped operator’s permit. A motor scooter is a nonpedal vehicle that has: (1) an operator’s seat; (2) two wheels, one of which is at least ten inches in diameter; (3) a step-through chassis; (4) a motor with either: (a) a brake horsepower rating of no more than 2.7; or (b) a 50 cubic centimeter piston displacement capacity internal combustion engine; and (5) an automatic transmission.

The bill also applies laws applicable to bicycles regarding rules of the road, vehicle safety equipment, and public parking to motor scooters. A motor scooter may not carry a passenger unless it is equipped with a passenger’s seat and footrests and may not be operated in excess of 30 miles per hour.

The bill is effective July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s changes could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual operating a moped, which is also referred to as a bicycle with an assisting motor, must have a driver's license or a moped operator's permit with him or her. There are no provisions specifically governing motor scooters; however, vehicles defined as motor scooters under the bill are subject to the laws governing motorcycles.

Background: In fiscal 2000 there were approximately 100 mopeds registered in the State. An estimate of the number of motor scooters in the State is not readily available.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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