

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1053 (Delegate Franchot)  
 Commerce and Government Matters

**Vehicle Laws - Traffic Citations - Revenues to Local Government**

This bill requires that 50% of each fine collected by the District Court as a result of a traffic citation issued by a local law enforcement officer be remitted to the political subdivision in which the officer is employed. The balance of each fine will be remitted to the State general fund.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund revenues could decrease by \$16.9 million in FY 2002. Out-year estimates reflect annualization. General fund expenditures would increase by \$300,000 in FY 2002. Out-year estimates reflect ongoing operations.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
GF Revenue	(\$16,900,000)	(\$22,500,000)	(\$22,500,000)	(\$22,500,000)	(\$22,500,000)
GF Expenditure	300,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Net Effect	(\$17,200,000)	(\$22,700,000)	(\$22,700,000)	(\$22,700,000)	(\$22,700,000)

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

**Local Effect:** Meaningful.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A driver who receives a traffic citation has two options: prepay the fine or request a court hearing. A driver who prepays a fine resulting from a parking violation remits a check directly to the State agency, political subdivision, or municipality that

issued the citation. A driver who prepays a citation that was issued as a result of a red-light camera remits a check to the State agency, political subdivision, or municipality that operates the camera. If the driver contests the citation and is found guilty, the driver remits the check to the District Court. A driver who prepays a fine resulting from any other violation remits a check directly to the District Court. Traffic violation cases are heard in the District Court and a driver who is found guilty of a traffic violation remits a check to the District Court. All money received from traffic cases by the District Court is credited to the State general fund.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The District Court advises that it handles approximately 1.1 million traffic citations annually, which results in approximately \$45 million annually, or \$3.75 million monthly, in general fund revenue. This figure does not include the approximately \$3.8 million annually in bad, refunded, and returned checks or the \$9.7 million in annual court costs.

General fund revenues could decrease by approximately \$16.9 million ( $\$3.75 \text{ million} \times 50\% \times 9 \text{ months}$ ) in fiscal 2002, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date. Out-year estimates reflect annualization.

It is anticipated that general fund expenditures would increase by \$300,000 in fiscal 2002. This includes \$100,000 in one-time computer programming changes needed to track the jurisdiction of origin for each citation and \$200,000 in design and printing of new citation books for the law enforcement agencies. Out-year estimates reflect ongoing operations.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local revenues could increase by \$16.9 million in fiscal 2002 and by \$22.5 million in future years. Expenditures would not be affected.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 26, 2001  
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