

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 3 (Senator Middleton)

Judicial Proceedings

State Driver's Education Council

This bill establishes a 17-member State Driver's Education Council to: (1) maintain oversight of driver education activities and programs in the State; (2) examine and evaluate necessary modifications and improvements to driver education; and (3) develop recommendations based on its evaluations. Members serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. The Maryland Department of Transportation must provide staff support for the council, which must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1 of each year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for the council members and staffing costs for the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) (e.g., travel) could be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no State Driver's Education Council under current law. The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) monitors and regulates drivers' schools and instructors. Drivers' schools must be licensed and must provide a surety bond.

Instructors must meet specified qualifications and must be licensed. Also, the MVA prescribes the curriculum that must be used in the drivers' schools.

Background: The MVA has received numerous complaints regarding the quality of driver's education provided in schools. Also, increasing concern about the number of accidents involving teen drivers led the General Assembly to approve the creation of the Task Force on Driver's Education Programs in 1999 (HB 1202, Chapter 696). The task force held a public hearing and examined the factors that influenced the driving habits and skills of young drivers. Among the legislative proposals that the task force recommended in its final report was a restriction on the number of passengers under the age of 21 who can ride with a provisional license holder under the age of 18.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced in the 2000 session as SB 453. It passed the Senate, but was not reported out of the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: HB 49 (Delegate Mandel) – Commerce and Government Matters.

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

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