

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 164 (Delegate McClenahan, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Motor Vehicle Administration - Digital Photographic Images - Private Detective Agencies

The bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to make digital photographic images or signatures of individuals available to private detective agencies licensed by the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The level of demand for digital images or signatures by detective agencies cannot be reliably estimated at this time. If it does not significantly change the current number of requests, it could be handled with existing resources. If the MVA experiences a significant increase in requests (e.g., one request from each detective agency per week), Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues could increase by as much as \$150,100 in FY 2002 from related fees. TTF expenditures could increase by as much as \$76,400 in FY 2002 for additional personnel and materials (including start-up costs). Out-year costs would reflect annualization and inflation.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Private detective agencies that are small businesses will benefit from the availability of the images.

Analysis

Current Law: The MVA may make the information specified by the bill available to: (1) the courts; (2) criminal justice agencies; (3) driver license authorities; (4) the licensed

individual; (5) the individual's attorney; (6) third parties designated by the individual; and (7) the Child Support Enforcement Administration.

Background: The MVA currently receives approximately 24,000 requests annually for digital images and signatures. According to the State Police, 565 private detective agencies (which may also include agencies that provide security services) are licensed in the State.

State Fiscal Effect: The exact impact cannot be reliably quantified. However, any significant increase in volume over current levels would require the purchase of an additional image retrieval workstation as the current one is fully utilized, according to the MVA.

A workstation and miscellaneous supplies cost approximately \$40,400. Further, an additional customer service representative would be required to process additional requests on a second workstation, including a salary, fringe benefits, and associated operating costs of \$36,400 in fiscal 2002. However, if the number of additional requests is minimal, it is assumed that the MVA could handle the increase with existing resources. A minimal increase in requests could instead result in a longer response time for the requested information.

State Revenues: The MVA charges a \$7 fee for each image retrieval. To the extent that requests for digital information increase, TTF revenues would increase.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill was introduced as HB 1261 during the 2000 session and given an unfavorable report by the Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 1, 2001
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Ann Marie Maloney

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510