

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 225 (Senator Middleton)

Judicial Proceedings

Commerce and Government Matters

Charles County - Highways - Prohibition on Use for Solicitations

This bill authorizes the Charles County Commissioners to prohibit a person from using a controlled access highway in the county's jurisdiction to solicit money, donations of any kind, employment, business, or a ride from the occupant of any vehicle. The bill also prohibits, in Charles County, a person from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in expenditures for one county to install signs.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Highway Administration and local jurisdictions can prohibit the use of a controlled access highway by parades, processions, bicycles, other nonmotorized traffic, or motorcycles. Violators are subject to a \$70 fine. Fines are established by the District Court.

Individuals are not allowed to stand in a roadway (excluding the shoulder) to solicit a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle unless they are soliciting

help because of a disabled vehicle. Violators are subject to a \$50 fine. The law does not specifically prohibit soliciting donations or money from a controlled access highway or from a median divider or intersection.

Local Effect: Charles County would incur a minimal expense to erect signs to enforce the prohibition.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Roadside businesses are already prohibited in some local jurisdictions. However, the Department of Legislative Services notes that the bill may affect some nonprofit organizations (e.g., local fire departments, advocacy groups, charities) in Charles County that conduct fundraising from median dividers and controlled access highways. Some of these organizations may be small nonprofits.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced as HB 334 in the 2000 session. The bill received an unfavorable report from the Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: HB 32 (Hutchins, *et al.*) – Commerce and Government Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation (State Highway Administration); State Police; Somerset, Prince George's, Montgomery, and Charles counties; Department of Legislative Services

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