

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 337 (Delegate Giannetti)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Drunk Driving - Ignition Interlock System Program Participants

This bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to modify a driver's license suspension for a person who participates in the Ignition Interlock Program and had his or her driver's license suspended for: (1) refusing to submit to a blood alcohol test; or (2) driving or attempting to drive while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual who has a license suspension due to an excess accumulation of points but participates in the Ignition Interlock Program may have the suspension reduced. The amount of time that may be reduced depends on how many previous convictions the driver has and how long the driver agrees to participate in the program.

The license suspension periods for the driving offenses referenced in the bill range from 60 days to 120 days depending on how many previous convictions the driver has. The

license suspension periods for refusing to submit to a blood alcohol test range from 90 days to 1 year depending on how many previous convictions the driver has.

Background: The District Court reports that in fiscal 2000, there were 9,205 convictions of drunk or drugged driving out of 38,463 charges, and 8,804 people refused to submit to a blood alcohol content test. The MVA advises there are about 3,700 people in the Ignition Interlock Program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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