

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 887 (Senator McCabe)
Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Signalization

This bill provides that a vehicular “turn” includes the vehicle changing direction, changing lanes, or moving onto or off of a through highway via an exit/entrance lane. The bill requires that a turn not be made until it is safe to do so.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund fine revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A turn is allowed when the driver has determined that it is safe to do so.

State Revenues: In fiscal 2000 there were 8,505 citations issued under current law for turning violations. These violations carry a \$70 fine each. This bill creates a different standard that does not rely on the driver’s determination that it is safe to change directions or lanes or merge onto or off of a highway. To the extent that the bill’s changes result in an increase in the number of citations issued and subsequent convictions, general fund revenues could increase. The number of additional citations and convictions that may occur under this bill is unknown but assumed to be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced as SB 870 in 2000. It was not re-referred by the Senate Rules Committee and no further action was taken. HB 1263 of 2000 and SB 416 of 1991 were substantially similar bills. HB 1263 received an unfavorable report from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. SB 416 received an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 15, 2001
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