

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 328 (Delegates Petzold and Minnick)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Funeral Processions - Use of Warning Lamps Required

This bill provides that a vehicle in a funeral procession must have its warning lamps flashing, in addition to the existing requirement of having its headlights on, in order to have the right-of-way privileges allowed to a vehicle in a funeral procession.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Cars in a funeral procession are required to have their headlights on in order to have right-of-way privileges.

Background: Police and other traffic safety experts are encouraging drivers to use their headlights during the day. Several studies suggest that using headlights or daytime running lights can significantly reduce the risk of having an accident. As a result, more motorists use their headlights during the day, thus reducing the intended effect of a funeral procession using its headlights. This bill provides a different way of distinguishing a funeral procession from regular traffic.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced as HB 47 and SB 27 in 1997. HB 47 received an unfavorable report from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. SB 27 received an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 5, 2001
ef/jr

Analysis by: Brian D. Baugus

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