

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1041 (Delegate Dobson) (By Request)  
Commerce and Government Matters

---

**Transportation - Tolls - Exemption for Uniformed Members of Armed Forces**

---

This bill exempts uniformed members of the United States armed forces from paying tolls at any highway or vehicular crossing.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potentially significant decrease in nonbudgeted revenues in FY 2003 and thereafter. The actual impact cannot be quantified at this time.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** State law prohibits any person from failing or refusing to pay a prescribed toll. The Trust Agreement between the Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA), which operates all State toll facilities, and its shareholders only provides exemptions for tolls for the following vehicles if they are being operated for an official duty:

- vehicles of officials and employees of the executive, legislative, and judicial departments in the discharge of their official duties;
- vehicles of any fire or police department of the State or any political subdivision;
- ambulances owned or operated by agents and independent contractors; and

- lessees of the MdTA and their agents and independent contractors in connection with the maintenance or operation of transportation facilities.

The exception for Executive Branch vehicles includes the State Military Department and officers of the Maryland National Guard. MdTA advises that any violations of the Trust Agreement could result in legal action against the authority or the State. Amending the agreement could take six months to a year.

**Background:** MdTA manages, operates, and maintains the State's seven toll facilities, and finances new revenue-producing transportation projects. The revenues are used to provide law enforcement at facilities under the MdTA's jurisdiction and also to finance capital projects for the Department of Transportation (MDOT). Toll revenues are estimated at \$207.5 million in fiscal 2003. Expenditures, including debt service and capital and operating costs, are estimated at \$349 million in fiscal 2003.

**State Revenues:** Data is not available on the number of uniformed members of the armed forces that use toll facilities and would be eligible for the free fare. The revenue loss, however, could be significant. There are several federal military installations in Maryland whose personnel may be eligible for the exemption provided under the bill: Ft. Detrick, the Aberdeen Proving Ground (including the Adelphi Army Research Laboratory), Fort Meade, the U.S. Naval Academy (including the Annapolis Naval Station), the Naval Surface Warfare Center (Indian Head and Carderock), the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the National Naval Medical Center.

---

### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation (Maryland Transportation Authority), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2002  
mam/jr

---

Analysis by: Ann Marie Maloney

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

