

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1252 (Delegate Valderrama)

Commerce and Government Matters

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**Advisory Commission on Transportation Options for Senior Citizens**

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This bill establishes a six-member Advisory Commission on Transportation Options for Senior Citizens to: (1) examine the unique transportation needs of senior citizens in the State; (2) identify access, mobility, and safety issues important to senior citizens and identify transportation challenges confronting them; and (3) develop legislative initiatives to improve the availability and quality of transportation for senior citizens in the State.

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is to provide staffing for the commission, which consists of: one member of the House of Delegates and one member of the Senate, to be appointed by their respective leadership, a representative of the United Seniors of Maryland, the Secretary of MDOT (or designee), and State Highway Administration and Motor Vehicle Administration administrators (or their designees). The bill directs the Governor to designate the commission chair.

The commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2002. The bill takes effect June 1, 2002 and remains effective for one year.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** Approximately 801,000 senior citizens (over age 60) live in Maryland, making up 16% of the State population, according to the 2000 Census. The number of senior citizens is expected to grow by 8% by the year 2030 to 23% of the State's population. Senior citizens with functional disabilities account for 19% of all elderly citizens.

The Commission on Aging, in its 2000 annual report, recommended that the Statewide Specialized Transportation Assistance Program be expanded to meet the needs of the elderly, particularly those with disabilities, and that transportation policy become more senior friendly for older drivers and pedestrians.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2002  
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