

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 16 (Delegate K. Kelly)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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Vehicle Laws - Signs Designating Parking Spaces for Individuals with  
Disabilities - Notice of Fine for Violation

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This bill requires that any new sign erected after October 1, 2002 that designates a parking space or zone for individuals with disabilities clearly state the maximum fine for unlawfully parking in that space or zone.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in Transportation Trust Fund and general fund expenditures; any costs could be absorbed within existing resources. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** Minimal increase in local government expenditures to replace or alter parking signs on county-owned property. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal increase in expenditures to replace existing parking signs.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A person may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle in a space or zone reserved for the use of individuals with disabilities unless it is for the use of such an individual. Any State agency authorized by law and any political subdivision may adopt ordinances or regulations that regulate parking of vehicles. The law does not require a clear statement of fines for violating these parking restrictions. However, private parking lot operators are required to state on their signs the maximum fine for towing if a car has violated parking lot restrictions.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that the bill affects many State agencies that are responsible for parking facilities, such as the University of Maryland University System and the Departments of General Services, Transportation, Public Safety and Correctional Services, and Health and Mental Hygiene. The impact on these agencies is expected to be minimal as the bill only requires new signs if one is being replaced or added.

For example, the Department of General Services advises that the bill would have little or no impact as the department typically only replaces one sign per month.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) advises that the annual cost to alter approximately 60 new signs would be \$900, however, DLS advises that this cost can be absorbed within the agency's resources. The Motor Vehicle Administration expects the impact of the bill on its operations to be minimal.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local governments advise that the bill would minimally increase expenditures for parking signs. The Montgomery County Department of Public Works commented that it has already begun changing its signs to include maximum fine information. Prince George's County observed that most of the affected parking spaces would be located at shopping malls or other privately owned property – the county has only a few spaces that would require new signs.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation, Department of General Services, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Garrett County, Dorchester County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 22, 2002  
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