

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 286 (Delegate Carlson)  
 Commerce and Government Matters

**Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards**

This bill removes the requirement that identification cards issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must be renewed every five years by persons who do not pay a fee for the card.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures would decrease by approximately \$10,000 in FY 2003. Future year decreases reflect inflation and annualization. However, TTF expenditures could increase significantly in FY 2003 only due to computer programming changes. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	(10,000)	(13,500)	(13,600)	(13,800)	(13,900)
Net Effect	\$10,000	\$13,500	\$13,600	\$13,800	\$13,900

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Transportation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The MVA issues identification cards to any State resident who does not have a driver's license and can present a completed application as well as proof of age

and identity acceptable to the MVA. The card contains the applicant's name, address, birth date, sex, physical description, color photograph, and signature, and may be used as legal identification for any purpose. The card must be renewed every five years with the submission of a fee and application. Persons who are exempt from the fee must also reapply for the identification card.

A fee is not required if the applicant is 65 years or older, legally blind, has permanently lost the use of a leg or an arm, is permanently disabled, or has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity as defined by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Major life activities as defined by the ADA include such activities as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

**Background:** The MVA advises that, under current policy, identification cards can be reissued through the Internet or at local shopping malls but that a recipient must visit the MVA every ten years to get a new photograph. This requirement may be a hardship on elderly citizens or those with disabilities because visits to the MVA can be physically or logistically difficult or expensive.

**State Expenditures:** The MVA estimates that the proposed bill will affect 100,000 people over five years (20,000 cards annually). However, it advises that approximately 25% of card recipients will continue to visit the MVA to replace their cards. Therefore, MVA will not be required to re-issue approximately 15,000 cards that cost 89 cents each to produce. TTF expenditures will therefore decline by approximately \$10,000 in fiscal 2002 (\$13,600 on an annualized basis).

The MVA also advises that the bill's requirements would necessitate a change to the driver licensing system by the agency's vendor, who estimates that it would cost \$161,600. The Department of Legislative Services acknowledges the bill may increase computer programming costs, but advises that: (1) several changes to the licensing system may be required pursuant to legislation enacted in 2002; economies of scale need to be pursued to avoid prohibitive costs for every system change needed; and (2) the cost estimates provided by the vendor are significantly higher than the estimates given by internal MVA technology staff in previous years.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None. However, an identical (departmental) bill was introduced as SB 109.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Justice,  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2002  
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Analysis by: Ann Marie Maloney

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