

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 117

(Delegate D'Amato, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Motor Vehicle Administration - Chesapeake Bay Commemorative License Plate
Program - Extension

This bill extends the Chesapeake Bay Commemorative License Plate Program for five years, from July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2007. The bill is effective June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Chesapeake Bay Trust and Transportation Trust Fund revenues and expenditures associated with this program would be maintained beyond FY 2002. In FY 2001, revenues totaled \$947,000, of which \$390,000 (40%) went to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to cover expenditures and \$484,000 (60%) went to the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Pursuant to Chapter 340 of 2000, the program is authorized until July 1, 2002. Chapter 340, as well as all previous extensions of the program since its creation in 1990, continued the program for two years.

Background: In 1985, the General Assembly created the Chesapeake Bay Trust, a nonprofit organization designed to encourage public awareness and participation in the

restoration and protection of the bay. The trust distributes grants throughout the State primarily to schools; community associations; and State, county, and municipal organizations. The trust is funded through direct donations from private citizens and businesses, donations from the tax check off on the Maryland income tax return, and sales of the commemorative Chesapeake Bay license plate. The tax check off program was created in 1990.

The Chesapeake Bay plate was first issued in 1991 and displayed on over 800,000 vehicles. Proceeds from plate sales account for the largest source of revenue for the trust. The plates carry an initial fee of \$20, \$12 of which goes directly to the trust, while the remaining \$8 is retained by the MVA for cost recovery.

State Fiscal Effect: In fiscal 2001, the MVA issued 48,700 Chesapeake Bay commemorative plates and received \$947,000 from the sale of the plates. The MVA retained \$390,000 and the Chesapeake Bay Trust received \$484,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None. However, an identical bill was introduced as SB 51.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Chesapeake Bay Trust, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2002
lsc/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 19, 2002

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