

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1297 (Delegates McKee and Edwards)
Commerce and Government Matters

School Buses - Speed Limits

This bill provides that a school bus driver may not drive more than five miles per hour below the posted speed limit while traveling on an “expressway” and carrying passengers.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal decrease in general fund fine revenues due to the change in school bus speed limit. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Any changes in local training programs for school bus drivers could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not drive a school bus more than 50 miles per hour while it is carrying passengers. An expressway means a major highway of two or more traffic lanes in each direction that is designed to eliminate principal traffic hazards and has the following characteristics:

- a median divider separating opposing traffic lanes to eliminate head-on collisions and sideswiping;
- grade separation structures to eliminate the conflict of cross streams of traffic at each intersection;

- points of entrance and exit limited to predetermined locations;
- vertical curves long enough to provide long sight distances; and
- shoulders wide enough to permit vehicles to stop or park out of traffic lanes.

State Revenues: The prepay penalty for driving a school bus more than 50 miles per hour while carrying passengers is \$120; the maximum fine under Maryland Vehicle Law is \$500. One point may be assessed against the driver's license upon conviction. With the minimum speed limit for school bus drivers set at five miles per hour below the posted speed limit on interstate highways, general fund revenues from the collection of these fines could be reduced minimally.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced as HB 886 in the 2001 session and was given an unfavorable report by the Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Maryland State Department of Education, Allegany County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2002
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