

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 154

(Harford County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Harford County - Highways - Prohibition on Use for Solicitation

This bill prohibits, in Harford County, a person from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues from fines received in District Court. The penalty established by the District Court for these violations is \$50.

Local Effect: Harford County expenditures would increase minimally to revise citation booklets. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Except for the occupant of a disabled vehicle who seeks the aid of another vehicle, a person is prohibited from standing in a roadway to solicit a ride, employment, or business from an occupant of a vehicle. Further, a person is prohibited from standing on or near a highway to solicit any other person to guard any vehicle while it is parked or about to be parked.

In Charles County, a person may not stand in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle.

In Prince George's County, a child under 15 years old is prohibited from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection in Prince George's County to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle. Further, in Prince George's County, an adult may not cause, encourage, permit, or petition a child under 15 years old to engage in such activity.

Harford County, in 2002, passed similar legislation concerning solicitation of funds on county roadways.

Local Fiscal Effect: Harford County would incur minimal expenses to revise citation forms. Enforcement, and any notification about the prohibition, could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Roadside businesses are already prohibited in some local jurisdictions. However, the Department of Legislative Services notes that the bill may affect some nonprofit organizations (e.g., local fire departments, advocacy groups, charities) in Harford County that conduct fundraising activities from median dividers and controlled access highways.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None, although SB 197 is identical.

Information Source(s): Harford County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2003
ncs/hlb

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