Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 585   (Delegate McKee, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - School Buses - Repeal of Special Speed Limit

This bill repeals the 50 miles per hour speed limit on school buses that are carrying passengers.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal decrease in general fund fine revenues due to the repeal of the special school bus speed limit. No effect on expenditures.

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.

State Revenues: As established by the District Court, 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 repeal of the special speed limit for school bus drivers, general fund revenues from the collection of these fines could be reduced minimally.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill was introduced in 2001 as HB 976 and was passed by the General Assembly; however, the bill was vetoed by the Governor.

Bills that would have allowed school bus drivers to drive at up to five miles per hour below the speed limit on expressways were introduced in 2002 as HB 1297 and in 2001 as HB 886. Both bills received unfavorable reports from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2003
mdf/hlb

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510