

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 738

(Delegate Boteler, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Pedestrian Right-of-Way - Crosswalks

This bill requires the driver of a vehicle to stop when a pedestrian crossing the roadway in a crosswalk is approaching from a lane that is adjacent to the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal general fund revenue increase from the penalty provision applicable to this offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: The bill's provisions could be enforced with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The driver of a vehicle must come to a stop when a pedestrian crossing the roadway in a crosswalk is on the half of the roadway where the vehicle is traveling, or approaching so closely from the other half of the roadway as to be in danger. The prohibition does not apply where there is a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing, or when a traffic control signal is in operation. If a vehicle has stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk, or an intersection to let a pedestrian cross, the driver of any other approaching vehicle may not overtake and pass the vehicle. A driver who violates these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor, and is subject to a fine not to exceed

\$500, imprisonment for not more than two months, or both. The Motor Vehicle Administration is required to assess one point against the driver's license.

A pedestrian is prohibited from suddenly leaving the curb or other place of safety to walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close, it is impossible for the driver to yield. If a pedestrian crosses a roadway at any point other than a marked crosswalk, or the unmarked crosswalk of an intersection, the pedestrian must yield to any approaching vehicle. A pedestrian who unsafely crosses in the path of a vehicle is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum fine of \$500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill is a reintroduction of HB 1077 from the 2001 session. HB 1077 was referred to Commerce and Government Matters, where it received an unfavorable report. Another similar bill, HB 666 from the 2000 session, was referred to Commerce and Government Matters and received an unfavorable report.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2003
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2003

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