

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 699
Judiciary

(Delegate Schisler)

Alcohol- or Drug-Related Driving Offenses - Driver's License Suspensions

This bill conforms the maximum periods of driver license suspension imposed as a result of a conviction for driving while impaired by alcohol; or driving while impaired by a drug, a combination of drugs, or one or more drugs and alcohol; to the suspension periods established elsewhere in the Motor Vehicle Law for those offenses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's changes could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend for not more than six months the license of a person who is convicted of driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while: (1) impaired by alcohol; or (2) so far impaired by any drug, any combination of drugs, or a combination of one or more drugs and alcohol that the person cannot drive a vehicle safely.

The MVA is authorized to suspend, for not more than 12 months, the license of any person who is convicted of driving or attempting to drive while: (1) impaired by alcohol; or (2) so far impaired by any drug, any combination of drugs, or a combination of one or more drugs and alcohol that the person cannot drive a motor vehicle safely. This suspension period applies to a person who was previously convicted within a five-year

period of driving or attempting to drive while: (1) under the influence of alcohol or under the influence of alcohol per se; (2) impaired by alcohol; (3) so far impaired by any drug, any combination of drugs, or any combination of one or more drugs and alcohol that the person cannot drive a motor vehicle safely; or (4) impaired by a controlled dangerous substance.

Current Law: The MVA is authorized to suspend for not more than 60 days the license of any person who is convicted of driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while: (1) impaired by alcohol; or (2) so far impaired by any drug, any combination of drugs, or a combination of one or more drugs and alcohol that the person cannot drive a vehicle safely.

The MVA is authorized to suspend, for not more than 120 days, the license of any person who is convicted of driving or attempting to drive while: (1) impaired by alcohol; or (2) so far impaired by any drug, any combination of drugs, or a combination of one or more drugs and alcohol that the person cannot drive a motor vehicle safely. This suspension period applies to a person who was previously convicted within a three-year period of driving or attempting to drive while: (1) under the influence of alcohol or under the influence of alcohol per se; (2) impaired by alcohol; (3) so far impaired by any drug, any combination of drugs, or any combination of one or more drugs and alcohol that the person cannot drive a motor vehicle safely; or (4) impaired by a controlled dangerous substance.

Under other provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law, the MVA is authorized to suspend a driver's license for not more than six months for a first conviction of driving or attempting to drive while: (1) impaired by alcohol; or (2) while so far impaired by any drug, any combination of drugs, or a combination of one or more drugs and alcohol that the person cannot drive a motor vehicle safely. For a second conviction of one of these offenses less than five years after the date of the first conviction, or for a third conviction, the MVA may suspend a license for not more than 12 months.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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