

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 271 (Senator Stone)
 Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Widths of Boat Trailers

This bill extends the width limit of a boat trailer that may be driven on State highways from 96 inches to 102 inches, provided it is a private boat trailer traveling from a point of origin to a boating, launching, repair, or fuel facility by the most practical route.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) permit revenues could decline by \$112,500 in FY 2005. Out-years include annualization. Enforcement of the bill's provisions could be handled with existing resources.

(in dollars)	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
SF Revenue	(\$112,500)	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	(\$112,500)	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None. Enforcement of the bill's provisions could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A vehicle may not be driven on any highway if the width of the vehicle exceeds specified limits, unless the vehicle has a permit issued by the State Highway Administration (SHA) or special permission from a local authority regarding a highway

under local jurisdiction. Generally, the width limit for vehicles is 96 inches, except for specified motor vehicles, buses, motor homes, travel trailers, trucks, or combination vehicles, which may have a maximum width of 102 inches. The fee issued for permits for boat trailers that exceed 96 inches is \$30.

State Revenues: Accounting for the bill's October 1, 2004 effective date, TTF revenues could decline by \$112,500 in fiscal 2005. SHA estimates that about 5,000 permits are issued annually to boat trailer owners who would meet the requirements of this bill. Each permit costs \$30. In an average year, SHA receives about \$9 million in revenues from permits issued to boat trailers. Out-year estimates include annualization.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, SB 666 of the 2003 session was heard by the Judicial Proceedings Committee, but received no further action.

Cross File: HB 528 (Delegate Minnick, *et al.*) – Environmental Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2004
mh/jr Revised - Updated Budget Information - March 3, 2004

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