

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 982 (Delegate Ross, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws – Bicycles and Motor Scooters – Exceptions to Requirement to
Stay Right

This bill expands the conditions under which a person operating a bicycle or a motor scooter on a road is not required to ride as close to the right side of the road as possible to include: (1) avoiding pedestrians or road hazards; (2) approaching a location where a right turn is authorized; or (3) operating in a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle or motor scooter and a vehicle to travel safely side by side. The bill also states that all exceptions to this rule only apply when a person is riding a bicycle or scooter below the normal speed of traffic.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal loss of general fund revenue due to the penalty provisions applicable under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine).

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person operating a bicycle or scooter on a roadway must ride as near to the right side as practicable and safe, except when making a left turn, operating on a one-way street, or when passing a stopped or slower moving vehicle. The prepay penalty set by District Court for violations of this law is \$35. In general, persons convicted of a

misdemeanor for violating any provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law are subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 777 (Senator Brochin, *et al.*) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2004
mam/jr

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