

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1282 (Delegates Kelly and Owings)
Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Rules of the Road - Lane Changes

This bill alters the standard under which a driver is authorized to change lanes on a road with two or more lanes marked for vehicular traffic so that a driver cannot change lanes until it is safe to do so, rather than the current standard which authorizes a driver to change lanes when the driver determines it is safe.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A vehicle must be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and may not be moved from that lane or moved from a shoulder or bikeway into a lane until the driver has determined that it is safe to do so. The District Court prepay penalty for violations is \$75. A driver may be assessed one point against his or her driver's license and three points if failure to change lanes safely contributes to an accident. The maximum fine for any violation of Maryland Vehicle Law is \$500.

Additional Comments: The Department of Legislative Services notes that the bill replaces a driver's determination of safety to an unspecified objective standard.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2004
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