

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 276

(Delegates Heller and Bozman)

Environmental Matters

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**Vehicle Laws - Accidents - Police Reports**

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This bill provides that if a person involved in a vehicle accident requests that the accident be investigated by a police officer, a police officer must go to the scene and investigate and file a report of the accident with the appropriate law enforcement agency. The bill's provisions apply only to vehicle accidents where (1) one or more of the vehicles is rendered immobile; (2) a person in the accident suffers bodily injury; or (3) one of the drivers involved in the accident has an out-of-state license.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements can be met with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill's requirements can be met with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Maryland Vehicle Law does not mandate that police officers go to the scene of an accident, investigate, and file a report. However, the driver of each vehicle involved in an accident that results in bodily injury to or the death of any person must report the matter in writing to the Motor Vehicle Administration within 15 days of the accident. This report is not required if a police officer completes an accident report. The driver of each vehicle involved in an accident that results in bodily injury or death to any person must provide identifying and license information and exhibit the license to drive to any police officer who is at the scene of or otherwise investigating the accident.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Cecil County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Harford County, St. Mary's County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Baltimore City, Carroll County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2004  
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