

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 717

(Delegate Moe, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Size, Weight, and Load Restrictions - Emergency Vehicles

This bill provides that size, weight, and load restrictions do not apply to emergency vehicles, as opposed to fire apparatus.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An "emergency vehicle" means any of the following vehicles designated by the Motor Vehicle Administration as entitled to the exemptions set forth for emergency vehicles:

- vehicles of federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies;
- vehicles of volunteer fire companies, rescue squads, fire departments, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;
- State vehicles used to respond to oil or hazardous materials spills;
- State vehicles designated for emergency use by the Commissioner of Correction;
- ambulances; and

- special vehicles funded or provided by federal, State, or local government and used for emergency purposes in this State.

Restrictions regarding size, weight, and load do not apply to fire apparatus, farm equipment temporarily moved on a highway, or a vehicle with a special permit.

Background: The State Highway Administration advises that it has not been asked to issue a size or weight permit for an emergency vehicle to date.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Somerset County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Charles County, Department of General Services, Department of State Police, Baltimore County, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Maryland Department of Transportation, Frederick County, Department of Legislative Services

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n/jr

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