

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1048

(Delegate Bartlett, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Motor Vehicles - Snow or Ice on Vehicle

This bill prohibits a person from driving a vehicle with an unreasonable amount of snow or ice on a publicly maintained highway, or allowing it to be driven. An “unreasonable amount of snow or ice” means enough snow or ice on any part of a vehicle that, should it become loose or detached while the vehicle is being driven on a highway, is likely to endanger other highway users. Violations would be subject to a \$75 pre-pay penalty.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues from the bill’s penalty provision under Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine). Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law prohibits a person from carrying loose material such as sand, dirt, wood chips, or other material (excluding agricultural material) that can blow, fall, or spill from a vehicle due to air or wind movement or exposure to weather. The District Court pre-pay penalty for violations is \$75. In general, persons convicted of a misdemeanor for violation of a provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law are subject to a fine of up to \$500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

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

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