

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 359

(Senator Stoltzfus)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

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**Ocean City - Vehicle Laws - "Taxicab" - Definition**

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This bill alters the definition of "taxicab" in Ocean City by (1) increasing the maximum number of individuals a motor vehicle for hire is designed to carry from seven to 15 or fewer individuals, including the driver; and (2) specifying that "taxicab" means a motor vehicle for hire that is used to accept or solicit passengers within Ocean City and originating in Ocean City to other points in Maryland as passengers request.

The bill is effective June 1, 2004.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is not expected to materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Small businesses will have more flexibility in determining which types of motor vehicles to use as taxicabs.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A "taxicab" is designed to carry seven or fewer individuals, including the driver. It is used to solicit passengers for transportation for hire between those points along highways in this State as passengers request. "Taxicab" does not include a motor vehicle operated on regular schedules and between fixed termini with the approval of the Public Service Commission (PSC).

A person must have a permit issued by PSC whenever a person operates a taxicab business in or from a point in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, the City of Cumberland, or the City of Hagerstown. Except as otherwise provided, a person may not operate a motor vehicle for hire in the State under a permit or other authorization issued by PSC unless the person holds a for-hire driver's license issued by PSC.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Public Service Commission, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2004  
ncs/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 23, 2004

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