

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 551

(Senator Giannetti, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Bicycles and Motor Scooters - Exceptions to Requirement to Stay
Right

This bill expands the conditions under which a person operating a bicycle or motor scooter on a road is exempt from the requirement to ride as close to the right side of the road as possible. The expanded conditions are: (1) avoiding pedestrians or road hazards; (2) when the right lane is a right turn only lane; or (3) operating in a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle or motor scooter and another vehicle to travel safely side by side. The bill also states that all exceptions to this rule apply only when a person is riding a bicycle or scooter at a speed less than the speed of traffic at the time and place under the conditions then existing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal loss of general fund revenue due to the penalty provisions applicable under the Maryland Vehicle Law (maximum \$500 fine).

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person operating a bicycle or scooter on a roadway must ride as near to the right side as practicable and safe, except when making a left turn, operating on a one-way street, or when passing a stopped or slower moving vehicle. The prepay penalty set by District Court for violations of this law is \$35. In general, persons convicted of a

misdemeanor for violating any provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law are subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill is a reintroduction of HB 982 of 2004. HB 982 was heard by the Environmental Matters Committee, but received no further action.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2005
ncs/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 30, 2005

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