

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 74

(Chairman, Finance Committee)

(By Request – Departmental – Public Service Commission)

Finance

Economic Matters

**Public Service Commission - License Hearing Officer**

This departmental bill authorizes a Public Service Commission (PSC) license hearing officer to issue a proposed order and findings of fact stemming from a hearing related to for-hire driving services instead of making a recommendation to the commission. The proposed order is final unless appealed to the commission.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect PSC finances, although it could result in operational efficiencies.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** PSC has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A license hearing officer may hold a hearing involving a violation of the for-hire laws and regulations by a licensed for-hire driver and, except for a rate violation, by a holder of a taxicab permit. The hearing officer may recommend to PSC (1) the imposition of a civil penalty; (2) the suspension of a license or permit; or (3) the revocation of a license or permit.

PSC may then affirm, deny, or modify the recommendation of the license hearing officer.

**Background:** All other PSC hearing officers have the authority to issue proposed orders instead of making recommendations to the commission.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Public Service Commission, Office of People's Counsel,  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 2005  
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Analysis by: Karen S. Benton

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510