

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 58 (Senator Stone, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Widths of Boat Trailers

This bill extends the width limit of a boat trailer that may be driven on State highways from 96 inches to 102 inches, provided it is a private boat trailer traveling from a point of origin to a boating, launching, repair, or fuel facility by the most practical route. Permits for private boat trailers up to 102 inches wide would not be required under this bill, nor would the trailer owners have to pay a permit fee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) permit revenues could decline by \$3,400 in FY 2006. Out-years include annualization. Enforcement of the bill’s provisions could be handled with existing resources.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
SF Revenue	(\$3,400)	(\$4,600)	(\$4,600)	(\$4,600)	(\$4,600)
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	(\$3,400)	(\$4,600)	(\$4,600)	(\$4,600)	(\$4,600)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None. Enforcement of the bill’s provisions could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A vehicle may not be driven on any highway if the width of the vehicle exceeds specified limits, unless the vehicle has a permit issued by the State Highway

Administration (SHA) or special permission from a local authority regarding a highway under local jurisdiction. Generally, the width limit for vehicles is 96 inches, except for specified motor vehicles, buses, motor homes, travel trailers, trucks, or combination vehicles, which may have a maximum width of 102 inches. The permit fee for boat trailers that exceed 96 inches is \$30.

State Revenues: Accounting for the bill's October 1, 2005 effective date, TTF revenues could decline by \$3,420. SHA advises that 152 permits for boat trailers between 96 and 102 inches were issued in fiscal 2004 to private boat trailer owners. The number of permit issuances and the fee are expected to remain constant. In an average year, SHA receives about \$9.5 million in revenues from permits issued to boat trailers. Out-year estimates include annualization.

SHA also advises that a "blanket permit" that covers height and length, as well as width, may be issued to boat trailer owners. Nearly all blanket boat trailer permits are issued for excessive width. To the extent that a few boat trailer owners would continue to need permits for excessive height or length, the revenue loss projected for the bill would be slightly mitigated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill is a reintroduction of SB 271/HB 528 from the 2004 session. SB 271 was referred to the Judicial Proceedings Committee where it received an unfavorable report. HB 528 was passed by the House on second reading, and was then recommitted to Environmental Matters, where no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 25, 2005
ncs/jr

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