

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1718 (Delegate Boschert)
Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Display of Identification - Exemption for School Vehicles

This bill exempts a registered Class H (school) vehicle from the requirement that a truck, truck tractor, or bus operated on highways in Maryland must: (1) be identified with the name or trade name of its owner, operator, or lessee; and (2) display a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) number or the number issued by a State agency.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A Class H (school) vehicle can be registered as one of two types of vehicle – a Type I (over 15,000 pounds) or a Type II vehicle (under 15,000 pounds). Registration fees differ based on type. For a truck, truck tractor, or bus operated on highways in Maryland that travels between states, USDOT issues a vehicle registration number; for vehicles that travel only intrastate, the State Highway Administration (SHA) issues a registration number. Class H (school) vehicles that are owned or operated by public school districts do not need to have a registration number issued.

State Fiscal Effect: SHA advises that it does not charge a registration fee for issuing registration numbers. Further, the number of vehicles subject to this requirement is minimal. Of approximately 800 to 1,000 Class H (school) vehicles owned by parochial and private schools that are required to have registration numbers, only 63 have a number issued by SHA; the remainder have numbers issued by USDOT. It is therefore assumed that any decrease in registrations annually would be minimal and would not substantively change SHA operations.

General fund revenues could decrease minimally from a loss of penalty revenue for tickets issued to Class H (school) vehicles that do not have the requisite registration number. The District Court prepayable fine for this offense is \$60.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 2006
mam/ljm

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