

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 358

(Senator Schrader, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Emergency Contacts - Notation on Driver's License or
Identification Card

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to provide for a method that allows an applicant for a driver's license or identification card to designate up to three emergency contacts. If an applicant chooses to do so, the MVA must make a notation of this fact on the applicant's driver's license or identification card. The MVA must: (1) develop a database system that contains the telephone numbers of the applicant's emergency contacts; and (2) develop a system for allowing a person who renders assistance to the applicant to access an emergency contact telephone number that is stored in the database. The designation(s) can be removed only on written notice by the applicant to the MVA.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) special fund expenditures could increase by a significant amount, beginning in FY 2007. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The MVA issues driver's licenses and identification cards to eligible applicants. Licenses and identification cards have certain designations on them, such as specifying whether a person is an organ donor.

Background: There are approximately 3.8 million licensed drivers in the State, as well as 575,000 individuals who hold identification cards.

State Fiscal Effect: MDOT special fund expenditures could increase by a significant amount beginning in fiscal 2007 for the addition of emergency contact information on driver's licenses and identification cards. There are insufficient data at this time to reliably determine how many licensees or cardholders could choose to add emergency contact data to their cards. *For illustrative purposes only*, if 5% of current license or cardholders, or 219,000 individuals, applied for corrected licenses or identification cards with new emergency contact information, MDOT expenditures could increase by \$1,422,093 in fiscal 2007, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2006 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of reprogramming the Driver's License System and the mainframe to capture the emergency contact data, a \$1 cost per replacement card, and hiring eight contractual workers in fiscal 2007 only to handle increased counter volume. It includes contractual salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$857,548
Computer Programming	337,500
New Cards (at \$1 per card)	218,750
Other Operating Expenses	<u>8,295</u>
Total FY 2007 State Expenditures	\$1,422,093

Most of the MVA's expenditures occur in fiscal 2007 only to conduct computer programming and handle the influx of current drivers who want to make the emergency contact designation. Future year expenditures would reflect 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses. It is assumed that future requests for emergency contact designation would be minimal.

These estimates assume actual emergency contact information is stored directly on a driver's license or identification card, rather than only having some sort of denotation that emergency contact information exists in an accessible MDOT database. Expenditures could be mitigated if cards carried only a notation that emergency contact data existed, alleviating the need for a replacement driver's license or identification card every time contact data changed. In addition, this estimate reflects the MVA's assertion that it would not charge a corrected license or corrected card fee, which is currently \$30. If the MVA were to do so, special fund revenues could exceed \$6.6 million, more than offsetting program costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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ncs/jr

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