

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 561 (Delegates Kaiser and Stocksdale)
Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Special Disability Plates and Parking Placards

This bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to issue a special disability parking placard to a person issued two sets of special disability registration plates.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any expenditures for additional parking placards and processing applications could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Local revenues could decrease minimally in FY 2008 from fewer parking tickets being written.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 326 of 2005, which took effect January 1, 2006, prohibits the MVA from accepting an application for another set of specialty disability registration plates if an individual already possesses one. The MVA may issue one placard to a person issued a set of special disability registration plates and two placards if the person does not have special disability registration plates. Thus, the MVA may not issue a combination of special disability registration plates and special disability parking placards exceeding two.

Since registration plates are renewed biennially, individuals who currently have two sets of special disability registration plates are required to surrender one set as the registration expires between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007.

Background: The Task Force on Parking for Individuals with Disabilities was established by Chapter 268 of 2004. The task force was directed to make specific recommendations for legislation and regulations on issuing disabled parking placards and special registration plates.

Placards are only to be used when the individual with a disability is in the vehicle. The task force recommended that, to prohibit abuse of placards, the MVA limit the number of placards issued. An individual with special disability registration plates could only have one placard. An individual who did not have special registration plates could have two placards. However, an individual would only be permitted one set of special disability registration plates.

State Fiscal Effect: Due to the October 1, 2007 effective date, there is only a three-month period during which an individual could legally possess two sets of special disability registration plates. The MVA advises that it would not need to change any programs or procedures; therefore, the bill would have minimal to no effect on the MVA. Any additional expenditures for placards and processing applications could be handled with existing resources.

Local Revenues: Individuals who would be eligible to receive a parking placard under the bill would no longer risk receiving parking tickets for parking in a spot for individuals with disabilities when they are in a vehicle that does not have a placard or disability registration plates. Therefore, local revenues from parking tickets could decrease minimally from October 1 through December 31, 2007.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2007
mll/ljm

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