

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

**Revised**

Senate Bill 551

(Senator Garagiola)

Finance

Economic Matters

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**Public Service Commission - For-Hire Driver's License - Review of Driving  
Record of Applicant**

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This bill requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to review the complete Maryland driving record of any for-hire driver's license applicant. Also, PSC must review the driving record of an applicant for the past 10 years in each state in which the applicant held a driver's license within that period.

PSC must meet with representatives from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission (WMATC) and the transportation divisions of Prince George's and Montgomery counties to consider possible options for licensing and regulating drivers operating within the WMATC region in Maryland. PSC must report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2008 on the options considered and its findings and recommendations.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** PSC has licensing authority over for-hire driver licenses for use in any county or municipality that does not issue its own licenses. This includes: (1) sedan

licenses in all counties; and (2) taxi licenses in Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Cumberland, and Hagerstown. Montgomery and Prince George's counties license taxi cabs within their respective jurisdictions.

PSC is required to perform a driving record check of any for-hire driver's license applicant. A county or municipality may issue taxi licenses and at minimum must conduct a criminal record check and driving record check of each applicant for a license.

**Background:** PSC advises that a complete, certified Maryland driving record, as well as the driving record in other states in which the applicant has been licensed for the prior 10 years, is currently required as part of the license application.

Sedans and limousines, operating within the Washington metropolitan area (Montgomery and Prince George's counties) must also obtain authority from the WMATC. WMATC prescribes rates and charges for transportation by taxicab between one compact signatory and another, where both points are within the Washington metropolitan area.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1251 (Delegate Boteler, *et al.*) – Economic Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2007  
ncs/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 2, 2007

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