

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 717 (Delegate Bates, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Andrew's Law

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. The MVA must make a notation of these contacts on the applicant's driving record or application for an identification card. The MVA has to develop a database system that contains the telephone numbers of the applicant's emergency contacts and a system for allowing a law enforcement officer to access emergency contact telephone numbers stored in the database. The designation authorizes a law enforcement officer to access the information in the database and can be removed only as provided by the MVA.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures could increase by a significant amount in FY 2008. To the extent MVA fees are increased to cover these expenditures, TTF revenues would also increase.

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. The MVA does not currently keep emergency contact information. When an individual is involved in an accident, law enforcement officials locate the individual's next of kin through such tools as personal effects, vehicle registrations, and telephone records.

Background: There are approximately 3.9 million licensed drivers in the State, as well as 475,000 individuals who hold identification cards.

State Revenues: Current law requires the MVA to recover its operating and capital costs through miscellaneous fees. The MVA advises that it does not plan to charge for the transaction of adding emergency contact information and that its costs to administer this bill may need to be recovered by increasing other fees. To the extent other fees are increased, MVA special fund revenues would increase beginning in fiscal 2008.

State Expenditures: There are insufficient data at this time to reliably estimate how many licensees or cardholders could choose to add emergency contact data.

For illustrative purposes only, the MVA advises that if 5% of current license or cardholders (218,750 individuals) elected to add emergency contact data, TTF expenditures could increase by \$618,961 in fiscal 2008, which accounts for the bill's January 1, 2008 effective date. This estimate reflects a one-time cost for reprogramming the Driver's License System and the mainframe to capture emergency contact information (\$337,500); a one-time cost for developing, revising, and reprinting brochures and forms (\$44,501); hiring 16 contractual workers in fiscal 2008 and the first half of fiscal 2009 only to handle increased counter volume and one permanent full-time employee to change and update emergency contact information (\$232,070 in fiscal 2008); and other operating expenses (\$4,890). It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

The MVA advises that computer programming modifications would be required by the bill resulting in a one-time expenditure of \$337,500 in fiscal 2008. However, Legislative Services advises that if other legislation is passed requiring computer programming changes, economies of scale could be realized. This would reduce computer programming costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the MVA system. Further, DLS advises that the increased computer expenditure is an estimate, and that MVA may be able to handle the changes within existing resources.

These estimates assume that individuals would go to the MVA to submit emergency contact information in an estimated five minute transaction per person. Expenditures could be mitigated if the MVA allowed individuals to enter emergency contact information in a secure online transaction or via a mail-in form. In addition, this estimate reflects the MVA's assertion that it would not charge a fee to add emergency contact

information. If, for instance, the MVA were to charge a \$3 fee, TTF revenues would offset program costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill, SB 358 of 2006, passed the Senate on second reading on Sine Die.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Garrett County, Department of State Police, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of Legislative Services

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