

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 222 (Chair, Environmental Matters Committee) (By Request –
 Departmental – State Police)

Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Inspection Mechanics - Examination Fee

This departmental bill increases from \$15 to \$50 the nonrefundable fee to take the State vehicle inspection mechanic examination administered by the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenue increase of \$34,125 in FY 2009, based on an assumed 975 applicants. Out-years reflect annualization with 1,300 application fees paid. Expenditures would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
GF Revenue	\$34,100	\$45,500	\$45,500	\$45,500	\$45,500
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$34,100	\$45,500	\$45,500	\$45,500	\$45,500

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of State Police has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: Under provisions of COMAR (11.14.01.03, B-2), applicants are required to achieve a passing grade of at least 80% on each part of the exam.

Background: An applicant must take a written examination, as well as a practical demonstration of ability. The written exam is administered to any applicants present at each of six testing facilities on the third Friday of each month. Two division personnel are assigned to each testing facility on that day of each month, even if only one applicant is scheduled for that site. According to the State Police, the process of administering the written exam and collecting, recording, and depositing fees takes about five to six hours.

The demonstrative ability examination is conducted at the inspection station facility of the applicant. Including travel time for division personnel, this portion of the exam can take up to four hours.

State Fiscal Effect: About 1,300 applicants take the inspection mechanics examination annually. The exam failure rate for first-time applicants is almost 80%. The number of applicants who take the examination more than once (due to a failing grade) is unknown.

The current annual level of general fund revenue from this exam is about \$19,500 (1,300 applicants x \$15). Under the fee increase provided by this bill, the annual income would grow to \$65,000 (1,300 x \$50) – an annual increase in general fund revenue of \$45,500. Because of the October 1, 2008 effective date of the bill, and assuming 975 applicants affected by the fee increase in fiscal 2009, the increase in fiscal 2009 revenue is estimated at \$34,125.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2008
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

