

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 492

(Senator Frosh, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

Vehicular Crossings - Use by Pedestrians and Bicycles - Authorization

This bill alters the prohibition on pedestrians and bicycles using a “vehicular crossing” by providing an exception when authorized by the Chairman of the Maryland Transportation Authority.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing procedures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A vehicular crossing means each tunnel and bridge within the jurisdiction of the Maryland Transportation Authority and each approach to these tunnels and bridges. Pedestrians and bicycles are prohibited from using any vehicular crossing.

Background: While pedestrians are prohibited from walking on a bridge or tunnel under the control of the Maryland Transportation Authority, for special events, pedestrians have been allowed to use a vehicular crossing. One example of such an event is the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Walk, usually held on the first Sunday in May. This event allows pedestrians to walk or run the entire length of one of the bridge spans during the morning, while vehicular traffic is restricted to the other span. Thousands of people have participated in this event over the years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 875 (Delegate Frick, *et al.*) – Environmental Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2008
ncs/ljm

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