

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 713

(Senator Astle, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

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Vehicle Laws - Equipment on Motorcycles - Auxiliary Lighting

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This bill authorizes the use of nonflashing auxiliary lighting on motorcycles. The lighting may be blue dot illumination, standard bulb running lights, or light emitting diode pods and strips added to protect the driver. The authorized lighting must be directed toward the engine of the motorcycle and may not be attached to the wheels of the motorcycle or emit a red or blue light.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill's provisions could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill's provisions could be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** "Motorcycle" includes multipurpose vehicles that are designated by the Motor Vehicle Administrator.

A motorcycle is defined as a self-propelled vehicle that has one front wheel and one rear wheel or two rear wheels on a single axle. If it is equipped with two rear wheels, the rear tread width must not exceed 25 inches. A motorcycle also has a singular front steering road wheel mounted in a fork assembly that passes through a frame steering bearing to which is attached a handlebar or other directly operated steering device.

In addition, a motorcycle has a motor with a rating of more than 1.5 brake horsepower, a capacity of at least 49 cubic centimeters piston displacement, and a seat that is straddled by the driver, and except for a windshield or windscreen, does not have any enclosure or provision for an enclosure for the driver or any passenger.

Headlamps are required equipment on motorcycles. The headlamp may be of the single-beam or multiple-beam type but must be of sufficient intensity to reveal a person at a distance of at least 100 feet when the motorcycle is operated at a speed of less than 25 miles per hour. When the motorcycle is operating at speeds of 25 to 34 miles per hour, the headlamps must illuminate a person at a distance of at least 200 feet. If the motorcycle is traveling at 35 miles per hour or more, the headlamps must illuminate a person at a distance of at least 300 feet.

If the headlamp is multiple-beam, the upper and lower beams must meet specified requirements for light distribution. If the headlamp is single-beam, the aim of the light beam must meet specified requirements.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1168 (Delegate Kramer, *et al.*) – Environmental Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2008  
mcp/ljm Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 19, 2008

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