

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 844

(Delegate Myers, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Registration Plates - Motorcycles

This bill requires that a registration plate issued for a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle be 7 inches wide by 4 inches high.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$50,000 in FY 2009 for the cost of retooling registration plate manufacturing equipment. Potential significant increase in TTF expenditures if the bill is construed to apply to motorcycle registration plates already in use.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Motor Vehicle Administration is required to issue a single registration plate to the owner of a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle. Each registration plate must display the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued and the name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

Background: The current size for motorcycle registration plates in Maryland is 8.5 inches wide by 4.5 inches high. The plates are made by the Maryland Correctional Enterprises, the industry arm of the Maryland Division of Correction.

State Fiscal Effect: MCE estimates that it would incur a one-time cost of \$50,000 in fiscal 2009 in order to retool its registration plate manufacturing equipment. This is a cost for which MCE would be reimbursed by MVA.

MVA also advises that there is a current inventory of at least 2,500 Class D (motorcycle) registration plates in the MCE warehouse. This would result in a small stranded cost for the State.

Legislative Services advises that the bill could be construed to require all motorcycle registration plates to conform to the new standard as of the bill's October 1, 2008 effective date. Should this be the case, the cost of compliance with this bill could increase significantly in order to issue a new registration plate for each of the approximately 105,000 Class D (motorcycle) vehicles in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2008
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