

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1426

(Chair, Environmental Matters Committee) (By Request –  
Departmental – Transportation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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**Vehicle Laws - Learner's Instructional Permits**

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This departmental bill extends the validity period of a learner's permit and repeals the exception allowing a 15-year-old to drive under supervision without a learner's permit.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund revenues could decrease by a slight but indeterminate amount due to a small anticipated decrease in the number of learner permit renewals.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of Transportation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Prior to issuing a driver's license, the Motor Vehicle Administration is required to issue to an applicant a learner's instructional permit unless otherwise permitted by MVA by virtue of being already licensed in another state or country, or by the armed forces. A learner's permit may only be issued to an individual who is at least 15 years and 9 months old. Upon issuance of the learner's permit, the holder may drive under the immediate supervision of an adult age 21 or older who has held a driver's

license for at least three years. The holder of a learner's permit is then required to wait six months from the date of issuance of the permit or from the date of the last moving violation to take a driver examination. A learner's permit expires one year after the date of issuance.

Upon successful completion of a driver's examination, an applicant who held a learner's permit or who held another state's or country's driver's license for less than 18 months is entitled to receive a provisional driver's license, as long as the applicant is at least 16 years and 3 months old.

However, an individual who is at least age 15 may drive without first obtaining a learner's permit if under the supervision of a qualified driver's education instructor.

**State Fiscal Effect:** TTF revenues could decrease minimally due to fewer renewals of learner's permits beginning in fiscal 2009.

MVA advises that computer reprogramming would be necessary to implement the requirements of this bill. Legislative Service advises that if MVA is unable to accomplish this with existing staff and resources, it may need to contract with an outside computer services vendor.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland Department of Transportation, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2008  
mll/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 26, 2008

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