

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 741

(Senator Lenett, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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Motor Vehicles - Driver's License Examination - In-Traffic Driving

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This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to include an in-traffic driving component to the examination of an applicant for an original driver's license or for a class of driver's license higher than that which the applicant currently holds.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by a significant but indeterminate amount in FY 2010 and annually thereafter to implement an in-traffic component for all driver's license examinations. TTF revenues may increase significantly to the extent that MVA fees increase to cover the costs under the bill.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** An individual may not attempt to drive a motor vehicle on any highway in the State unless he or she holds a driver's license, is expressly exempt from licensing requirements, or is otherwise specifically authorized to drive the class of vehicle that the individual is driving or attempting to drive. To be entitled to a driver's license an applicant must pass a driver examination. The requisite driver examination tests vision, the ability to read and understand highway signs, knowledge of traffic laws and safe driving practices, and a demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise reasonable control in driving a motor vehicle.

According to MVA, the driving skills test for a Class C – noncommercial driver’s license includes the following components:

- a pre-trip inspection of the motor vehicle, including adequacy of the windshield, tires, head- and tail-lights; and functioning of the doors, seat belts, brakes, and exhaust system, among other items; and either
- a basic skills test on a closed course, including parallel parking; or
- a public road test on public highways.

MVA advises that it is currently conducting an on-road noncommercial driving test pilot program developed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Once the pilot program has concluded, data will be compiled comparing the citation issuance and crash involvement rates of participants with that of the public.

**State Expenditures:** MVA advises that TTF expenditures increase significantly due to the cost of redesigning current driving courses, training driver’s license examiners, revising printed materials, and performing public awareness to inform potential driver’s license applicants. MVA further advises that it is not possible to quantify the costs of these changes at this time.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2009  
mcp/ljm Revised - Correction - February 23, 2009

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