

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

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

Senate Bill 835 (Senators Peters and Muse)  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Prince George's County - Roadside Solicitation of Money or Donations - Permit Program**

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This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Council to enact a permit program to allow a person to stand in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations from the occupant of a vehicle. The bill also details the required provisions of such a program.

The bill terminates September 30, 2011.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County expenditures and revenues may increase minimally during the effective period due to the permit program.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** An applicant must apply for a permit at least 15 days prior to the date for which a permit is requested. An application filed with the county must contain the following information:

- the name, address, and age of each person who will solicit;
- the name and address of the employing or sponsoring person, agency, or entity;

- the exact location where each solicitor will be assigned;
- the purpose of the solicitation;
- the timeframe and duration of the solicitation;
- the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person who will be able to provide additional information to the county or its designee; and
- any other information required by the county.

The term of a permit may not exceed 24 hours and no more than four permits may be issued to the same person in a calendar year. The person to whom a permit is issued must conspicuously display the permit while soliciting.

**Current Law:** Except for the occupant of a disabled vehicle who seeks the aid of another vehicle, a person may not stand in a roadway to solicit a ride, employment, or business from an occupant of any vehicle. Further, a person is prohibited from standing on or near a highway to solicit any other person to guard any vehicle while it is parked or about to be parked on the highway.

In Prince George's County, a person may not stand in a highway to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle and an adult in Prince George's County may not cause, encourage, allow, or petition a child younger than age 15 to engage in such activity.

In Anne Arundel County, a person may not stand in a highway to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle or advertise any message. In Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, and Washington counties, a person may not stand in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle. This ban also applies to children under age 18 in Montgomery County.

The Cecil County Commissioners or the governing body of a municipal corporation in Cecil County are authorized to adopt a permit program for roadside solicitation. A person is prohibited in Cecil County from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit donations from occupants of motor vehicles (without a valid permit), and from causing, encouraging, allowing, or petitioning others to do so. An individual or a representative of a qualified organization who is at least 18 years old may obtain a permit from the county commissioners or a municipal corporation in the county, upon submitting proof of a plan to safely solicit donations. A permit is issued for one calendar day, and only one permit per individual or organization can be issued in a calendar year. Qualified organizations are defined as a fire company or bona fide religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans', or charitable organization.

**Background:** The bill may affect some nonprofit organizations (*e.g.*, local fire departments, advocacy groups, charities) in Prince George's County that conduct fundraising activities from median dividers.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 933 (Prince George's County Delegation) - Environmental Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Cecil County, Prince George's County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2009  
mlm/mwc Revised - Senate Third Reader - May 15, 2009

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