

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 67

(Delegates Feldman and Bronrott)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Rules of the Road - Use of Signals When Changing Lanes

This bill prohibits a person from moving a vehicle right or left on a roadway to change lanes unless the person gives an appropriate signal. The signal of intent to change lanes must be given continuously during at least the last 100 feet traveled before changing lanes. A violation is a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum fine of \$500.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues for cases heard in the District Court, due to the bill's penalty provision. No effect on expenditures as the bill's requirements can be enforced with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. The bill's requirements can be enforced with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not turn a vehicle at an intersection, unless the vehicle is in the appropriate position for turning. Unless the movement can be made with reasonable safety, a person may not turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway, otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course, or move the vehicle right or left or from a shoulder or bikeway onto a roadway. If any other vehicle might be affected by the movement, a person may not turn a vehicle unless the person gives an appropriate signal.

A signal of intent to turn right or left must be given continuously during at least the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning. A bicyclist, however, may interrupt the

turning signal to control the bicycle. If there is a chance to signal, a person may not stop or suddenly slow a vehicle unless an appropriate signal is given to the driver of any other vehicle immediately in the rear.

Except as otherwise specified, each required stop or turn signal must be given by hand and arm, or by signal lamps. Motor vehicles in use on a highway that meet specified size requirements must be equipped with signal lamps, and the required signals must be given by signal lamps.

A violation of any of the above provisions is a misdemeanor, and a violator is subject to a maximum fine of \$500. The Motor Vehicle Administration has to assess one point on the driver's license or three points if the violation contributes to an accident. The prepayment penalty assessed by the District Court is \$90 or \$130 if the violation contributes to an accident.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2009
ncs/ljm

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