

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 458 (Delegate Carr, *et al.*)  
 Environmental Matters

State Highway Administration - Posting of Traffic Accident and Incident  
 Information on Website

This bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to provide information about traffic accidents and incidents that occur on State highways on the SHA web site in a specified format.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by at least \$230,000 in FY 2010 for web site development. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	230,000	-	-	-	-
Net Effect	(\$230,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

Analysis

**Bill Summary:** SHA is required to provide information in a format that is capable of producing statistics using known crash data; searchable by the name of a highway, a range of dates, and a starting and ending mileage point on the highway; and allows exportation of data from the web site to a commonly used format, including comma separated values, for further analysis.

**Current Law/Background:** SHA is responsible for more than 5,200 miles or approximately 16,800 lane miles of road, 2,500 bridges, 3,500 small stream crossing structures, and 80 miles of sound barriers. It also has responsibility for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining these roads and bridges to safety and performance standards while considering sociological, ecological, and economic concerns.

SHA manages traffic and congestion through the Coordinated Highways Action Response Team (CHART) program. CHART is a joint effort of the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland State Police, in cooperation with other federal, State, and local agencies. Currently, CHART operates 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week to provide traffic monitoring, traveler information, incident management, and traffic management services to the public. One of CHART's key services is advising motorists of traffic conditions along major routes. Through a series of variable-message signs and travelers' advisory radio broadcasts, CHART advises motorists of alternative routes they can use to avoid delays, congestion, and potential problems. Cameras throughout the State, including at the Bay Bridge, provide real-time traffic images online through the CHART system.

SHA collects accident data provided by the Department of State Police (DSP). Incidents, defined as minor accidents that do not require towing or ambulance services, are not tracked by DSP. Therefore, limited data is available about incidents on State highways.

**State Fiscal Effect:** While SHA currently collects and distributes data about traffic accidents, the bill requires additional information to be provided in a format that is not currently available.

TTF expenditures increase by \$230,000 in fiscal 2010. This estimate reflects estimated contractual services associated with developing a web-based database system that produces crash data in the specified format (\$180,000) and converting location data to logmile for all highways in Baltimore City (\$50,000), as no highway mile markers currently exist in Baltimore City. The estimate does not include potential SHA expenditures associated with collecting incident data, contract oversight, and future web site database management.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2009  
mcp/ljm

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