

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1393 (Delegates Schuh and King)
Environmental Matters

State Highway Administration - State Line and Welcome Signs - Prohibition on
Including Names of Elected Officials

This bill prohibits the State Highway Administration (SHA) from including the name of any person currently holding elected office on any new State line or welcome sign.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures decrease by \$9,000 in years a new Governor takes office. Thus, TTF expenditures could decrease by \$9,000 in FY 2011 and 2015.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: SHA is authorized to place signs, signals, or markers along any State highway to inform the traveling public of directions, distances, danger, or other information. Signs, signals, and markers placed along an interstate must conform to applicable federal standards. Any person who removes, damages, or defaces any sign, signal, or marker placed by SHA is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.

Background: SHA advises that, in 1987, during the first year of Governor Schaefer's Administration, SHA began adding the Governor's name to major entry-point signs. Currently, approximately two dozen State line signs incorporate the Governor's name.

State Fiscal Effect: According to SHA, changing the State line signs costs about \$9,000, which is funded through SHA's capital budget. Thus, under the bill's prohibition, SHA capital expenditures decrease by an estimated \$9,000 every four or eight years, depending on the length of the Governor's term. Although not required to do so by the bill, this analysis assumes SHA could absorb any costs associated with removing the current Governor's name from signs when a new Governor takes office.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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mlm/lgc

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