

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

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

Senate Bill 493

(Senator Astle, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

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**Vehicle Laws - Equipment on Motorcycles - Auxiliary Lighting**

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This bill specifies that the operator of a motorcycle may use specified auxiliary lighting equipment attached to a motorcycle.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill clarifies current law.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill clarifies current law.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A motorcycle may be equipped with blue dot illumination, standard bulb running lights, or light emitting diode pods and strips added to protect the driver. Auxiliary lighting is required to be nonblinking, nonflashing, and nonoscillating and must be directed toward the engine and drive train of the motorcycle. Auxiliary lighting may not be attached to the motorcycle wheels or emit a red or blue light. Blue dot illumination may not exceed three-quarters of an inch in diameter and may only be located on the rear of the motorcycle as part of or adjacent to the rear brake light.

A person who attaches unauthorized auxiliary lighting equipment to a motorcycle is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum fine of \$500. The prepayment penalty established by the District Court for this offense is \$60.

**Background:** According to the District Court, two citations were processed for violation of motorcycle auxiliary lighting provisions in calendar 2009.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 676 (Delegates Malone and Kramer) - Environmental Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2010  
mpc/ljm Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 26, 2010

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