

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 485

(Delegate Malone)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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Motor Vehicle Equipment - Spare Tire Requirement - Application

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This bill expands the requirement that (Class A) passenger vehicles be equipped with a spare tire, to apply also to new (Class M) multipurpose motor vehicles sold in the State. However, the bill also establishes an additional exemption from the spare tire requirement, which applies to a (Class A) passenger or (Class M) multipurpose vehicle that is equipped with a factory-installed temporary tire repair and inflation system.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill primarily regulates the activities of private entities and does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** All Class A passenger vehicles sold in Maryland must be equipped by the manufacturer with a spare tire, unless: (1) the vehicle is equipped with run-flat tires (which provide partially inflated driving surfaces if the tire fails); or (2) technological improvements become available that are consistent with federal motor vehicle safety standards.

**Background:** The Department of State Police (DSP) advises that several major automobile manufacturers have developed a tire repair and inflation system to be equipped on newly sold vehicles. These systems are designed to render the spare tire

obsolete. As these systems do not qualify as run-flat systems, they do not fit within the current exemption from the requirement to carry a spare tire. Thus, the bill's exemption is necessary for newly sold vehicles equipped with tire repair and inflation systems to be compliant with Maryland law.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) is authorized to maintain a market surveillance program to ensure compliance with the vehicle equipment provisions of the Transportation Article. However, it is unlikely that the bill will affect the operations of this program or of MVA generally. In addition, the vehicle equipment requirements of the Maryland Vehicle Law may be enforced by any uniformed police officer in the State. According to DSP, the bill will not affect its current operations.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2010  
mpc/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2010

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