

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 875

(Delegate Howard, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Parking Spaces for Individuals with Disabilities - Professional Sports Stadiums

This bill requires that at least 4% of parking spaces open to the public or general ticket holders at a professional sports stadium be designated for the use of individuals with disabilities, and conform to all applicable standards under State and federal law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland Stadium Authority's (MSA) professional sports stadiums will not be affected by the bill as they currently exceed the bill's requirements.

Local Effect: Expenditures may increase for any local governments with professional sports stadiums that do not currently satisfy the bill's requirements.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each parking lot that is constructed or altered after October 1, 1996, must conform to the requirements of the Maryland Accessibility Code. Any restriping or repaving of a parking lot is considered an alteration. By October 1, 2010, all parking lots in the State must conform to these requirements. The Maryland Accessibility Code references the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

Background: According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 7.6% of adult Americans are unable, or find it very difficult, to walk a quarter mile, and 15% have some kind of physical functioning difficulty. ADA requires new stadiums to

meet certain accessibility requirements for people with disabilities. One such accessibility requirement is maintaining *accessible* parking spaces, which must be the closest parking spaces to the stadium entrances that also meet accessibility criteria.

State Fiscal Effect: According to MSA, both Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium currently exceed the more stringent federal requirements of ADA.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Stadium Authority, Maryland Department of Transportation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Legislative Services

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