

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 66

(Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Transportation)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Length of Vehicles - Saddle-Mount and Full-Mount Combinations

This departmental bill increases the allowable length of saddle-mount and full-mount truck tractor combinations on publicly maintained highways to comply with federal law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances. However, the bill allows current federal funding for the State Highway Administration (SHA) to be fully maintained.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Transportation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment as discussed below.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: A “saddle-mount and full-mount combination” means a truck tractor or unloaded truck towing one or more other truck tractors or unloaded trucks in “piggyback” configuration, with the front wheels up on the preceding truck. The saddle is a mechanism that connects the axle of the truck being towed to the frame of the towing truck. The full-mount is a configuration in which a smaller truck is mounted completely onto the frame of the towing truck or a preceding truck.

Saddle-mount and full-mount combinations may not exceed 75 feet in length. In 2007, Federal Highway Administration regulations changed, prohibiting states from imposing an overall length limit of other than 97 feet for such vehicle combinations. SHA advises that failure to comply with the federal regulations may cost the State 10% of federal highway funds.

State Fiscal Effect: SHA advises that failure to amend Maryland law in conformance with changes in federal highway regulations may jeopardize 10% of current federal highway funding, or \$35.2 million at fiscal 2009 levels.

Small Business Effect: SHA advises that the bill may slightly reduce costs for small business hauling companies because the additional truck combination length will allow more trucks to be transported at one time, thereby reducing the number of trips necessary.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2010
ncs/ljm

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: MD Vehicle Law-Length of Vehicles-Saddle-mount or Full-mount-Combinations

BILL NUMBER: SB 66

PREPARED BY: Maryland Department of Transportation

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.