

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 112

(Chair, Environmental Matters Committee)(By Request -  
Departmental - Transportation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Equipment - Public Transit Vehicles - Flashing Lights

This departmental bill authorizes State and local public transit service vehicles to be equipped with and display amber flashing lights or a white flashing light installed on a vehicle's roof.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Under the bill's authority, Transportation Trust Fund expenditures may increase in FY 2012 and future years to install lights. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local operations or finances.

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

Analysis

**Current Law:** Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles unless specifically required or permitted in statute.

**Background:** Flashing lights enhance motorist and pedestrian awareness of transit vehicles in their immediate vicinity and thereby reduce the likelihood of accidents and injuries. MDOT advises the bill would authorize the installation of flashing lights on Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) fixed route local buses and mobility paratransit vans. Flashing lights are already installed on MTA vans used to provide mobility

paratransit service to individuals with disabilities. Currently, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has amber lights on approximately 100 of its metro buses which cannot be operated in Maryland due to the existing statutory limitation.

**State Expenditures:** MTA advises it may use the authority provided by the bill to install flashing lights on as many as 305 buses during the fiscal 2012 through 2016 period. If so, the total estimated cost would be \$176,714. The lights would be added as buses are procured.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 1, 2011  
ncs/lgc Revised - Updated Information - February 2, 2011

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Vehicle Equipment – Public Transit Vehicles – Flashing Lights

BILL NUMBER: HB 112

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.