

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 514 (Delegate Kach, *et al.*)
 Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Work Zone Speed Control Systems - Signage

This bill prohibits a work zone speed control system from being used unless the currently required conspicuous road sign designed to alert drivers of a speed monitoring system in operation also alerts drivers that images may be recorded even if there are no workers present.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by about \$25,000 in FY 2012 only for the State Highway Administration (SHA) to procure and install the required signage. Nonbudgeted expenditures also increase by about \$25,000 in FY 2012 only for the Maryland Transportation Authority to procure and install the required signage. TTF and special fund revenues decrease minimally at the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Department of State Police, and the District Court to the extent fewer citations are generated by work zone speed control systems as a result of the additional notice provided to drivers under the bill.

(in dollars)	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
GF/SF Rev.	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)
SF Expenditure	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NonBud Exp.	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	(\$50,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: (-) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 500 of 2009 authorizes State and local law enforcement agencies or their contractors to issue citations or warnings for speeding at least 12 miles per hour above the posted speed limit in highway work zones that are set up on expressways or controlled access highways where the speed limit is 45 miles per hour or greater. A conspicuous road sign warning of the use of speed monitoring systems must be placed at a reasonable distance from the work zone.

A work zone is a segment of a highway identified as a temporary traffic control zone by a traffic control device in conformance with State specifications, and where highway construction, repair, maintenance, utility work, or related activities are being performed, regardless of whether workers are present. A work zone speed control system may only be used while being operated by a work zone speed control system operator. The maximum fine for a ticket issued by a work zone speed control system operator is \$40.

Background: MDOT advises that work zones are inherently dangerous due to obstacles such as concrete barriers, narrowed lanes, and cones, all of which increase the risk of traffic accidents from speeding motorists. In 2009, there were 667 fatalities in highway work zones nationwide, including 6 in Maryland. In these work zone accidents, about 85% of injuries are to the motorists, and about 15% of those injured are transportation workers. As of December 31, 2010, about 351,000 citations had been generated by work zone speed control systems, according to SHA, representing about one year of implementation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore and Garrett counties, cities of Frederick and Havre de Grace, Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2011
mc/ljm

Analysis by: Evan M. Isaacson

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510