

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 990

(Delegate Frush, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Unattended Motor Vehicle - Exception to Prohibition

This bill establishes that the prohibition against leaving a motor vehicle unattended until the vehicle is completely stopped (as specified in the Maryland Vehicle Law) does not apply to a person in charge of a motor vehicle who recently had the engine started using a remote keyless ignition system.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal reduction in general fund revenues due to the assessment of fewer fines under the bill's provisions. Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A "motor vehicle" means a vehicle that is self-propelled or propelled by electric power obtained from overhead wires and is not operated on rails. A motor vehicle includes a low-speed vehicle, but it does not include a motor scooter or moped.

Except as otherwise provided, a person driving or otherwise in charge of a motor vehicle may not leave it unattended until the engine is stopped, the ignition locked, the key removed, and the brake effectively set. If the vehicle is on a grade, a person driving or otherwise in charge of a motor vehicle may not leave the vehicle unattended until the front wheels are also turned to the curb or side of the highway. The prohibition does not

apply to an on-duty law enforcement officer or an animal control officer who leaves a cat or dog in the officer's unattended vehicle.

A violation of the prohibition is a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of \$500. The prepayment penalty established by the District Court is \$70 and one point against the driver's license. If the violation contributes to an accident, the prepayment penalty is \$110 and three points against the offender's driver's license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2012
mlm/ljm

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