

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 110

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

Judicial Proceedings

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**Motor Vehicle Administration - Young Driver Improvement Program - Parent  
and Guardian Attendance**

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This departmental bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to require the parent, guardian, or other responsible adult cosigner of a provisional driver's license holder younger than 18 to attend a young driver improvement program after a third moving violation. If the cosigner is a representative of a local department of social services, he or she is exempt from this requirement.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

**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.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** On conviction, or the grant of probation before judgment, of a provisional driver's license holder for a moving violation, in addition to other penalties, MVA is authorized or required to take other actions, as follows. For a first offense, MVA must require attendance at a driver improvement program. For a second offense, MVA may suspend the license for up to 30 days for an adult offender; if the offender is younger than 18, MVA may suspend the license for 30 days and impose an additional

education and employment restriction for a subsequent 90-day period. For a third offense, MVA may suspend the license for up to 180 days for an adult, but if the offender is younger than 18, MVA may suspend the license for up to 180 days, require attendance at a young driver improvement program, and impose an additional education and employment restriction for a subsequent 180 days. For a fourth or subsequent offense, MVA may suspend or revoke the license for up to 180 days for an adult, whereas for an offender younger than 18, MVA may revoke the license for at least 180 days and require re-examination of the driver skills and road tests after reinstatement of the license.

A driver's license applicant younger than 18 is required to have the application cosigned by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult. On request from the cosigner, MVA must cancel the driver's license.

Driving schools in Maryland are required by MVA regulation to conduct an MVA-approved parent orientation at the start of each driver education program course. However, the attendance of parents and guardians is not required.

**Background:** Chapters 184 and 185 of 2009 authorized MVA to create a young driver improvement program and enhanced the penalties for provisional driver's license holders younger than 18 who are convicted of, or granted probation before judgment for, multiple moving violations. MVA has been implementing a young driver improvement program for nearly two years and has required the attendance of over 200 individuals in the program.

A recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration assessment of Maryland's driver education programs discussed the general importance of parental involvement in novice driver education, though discussion focused particularly on parental involvement in the initial stages of driver education. According to MVA, additional parental involvement will reinforce the importance of safe driving behavior among teens and will also provide a platform for parents or guardians to become educated on the risks associated with teen driving.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 19, 2012  
ncs/ljm

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Motor Vehicle Administration – Young Driver Improvement Program – Parent and Guardian Attendance

BILL NUMBER: SB 110

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.