

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 939 (Delegate Frush, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Motor Vehicle Combinations - Use on Maryland Route 212 Prohibited

This bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to prohibit specified truck combinations of a certain size from using Maryland Route 212 in Prince George's County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase negligibly for SHA to provide for appropriate traffic restriction signage. In addition, to the extent that the bill results in fewer maintenance needs for Maryland Route 212 as a result of the bill's prohibition, fewer TTF expenditures may be required for system preservation and maintenance on that State highway, thereby allowing a greater amount to be used for the maintenance of other State highways or for system expansion or improvement.

Local Effect: Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation capital expenditures may increase significantly beginning in FY 2013 to replace several miles of roadways, as well as for intersection improvements and sidewalk additions, along county secondary and tertiary roads that will experience greater truck traffic as a result of the bill's prohibition. Prince George's County law enforcement workloads and expenditures may also be minimally affected to enforce the bill. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The vehicles specified by the bill include a tractor-trailer combination, semitrailer combination, or any other vehicle combination that totals 48 feet or more in length and is designed and used for carrying freight or merchandise in furtherance of a commercial enterprise.

Current Law: SHA may conduct studies to determine whether the safety and general welfare of a residential community are threatened by noise, vibration, or incidence of truck traffic on any State highway. In determining whether or not to conduct a study, SHA must consider the number of complaints about truck traffic received, if any, from residents of an area. If SHA determines that a threat exists and that the safety and general welfare of the residential community would be promoted by the adoption of restrictions on the use of the State highway by trucks, it may establish routes, speed limits, time restrictions, weight restrictions, or other measures with respect to truck traffic on the State highway to minimize the adverse effects of that traffic on the residential area or cause that traffic to avoid the residential area entirely.

Truck traffic may be prohibited entirely on any State highway or part of a State highway, if an adequately functional alternate route is available to carry the truck traffic, taking into consideration the amount of additional fuel that would be required over the alternate route and the economic impact on citizens caused by the alternate route.

These provisions do not apply to Class E (truck) vehicles of 10,000 pounds or less gross vehicle weight, and they do not preclude the making of local deliveries of supplies or services in any residential communities.

Background: Maryland Route 212 is a State-owned highway in Prince George's County, which is also officially named Riggs Road and Powder Mill Road during various stretches. The road has between two and six lanes at various points along the route.

Local Expenditures: Prince George's County advises that closing Route 212 to certain classes of truck traffic will result in a diversion of such traffic to other county highways, including secondary or tertiary roads that are not designed to handle large volumes of heavier vehicles. Thus, preliminary estimates indicate that adding roadway replacement, intersection improvement, and sidewalk projects to the county's *Capital Improvement Program* will result in additional expenditures of about \$5.0 million in fiscal 2013, \$2.5 million in fiscal 2014, and \$1.5 million annually from fiscal 2015 through 2017.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 552 (Senator Rosapepe) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

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mc/ljm

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