

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 912 (Delegate Clagett)
Environmental Matters

**Driver Education Program - Classroom Instruction - Organ, Eye, and Tissue
Donation Education**

This bill requires that 30 minutes of the required 30 hours of driver education classroom instruction consist of an online course established by the organization Donate Life Maryland, which is dedicated to education on organ, eye, and tissue donation in the State and how to become a donor. The course may be completed in or outside of the classroom.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by about \$4,700 in FY 2014 for the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to reprint and send existing driver education curriculum guides and other documents. TTF expenditures may also increase further beginning in FY 2014 for an additional part-time contractual position and contractual assistance to the extent that MVA cannot handle additional training and driver education school inspections with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: MVA is required to, in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), adopt and enforce regulations to implement a standardized driver education program conducted by driver education schools. The regulations include

curriculum, equipment, and facility standards for classroom, laboratory, and on-road instruction phases, as well as minimum student performance standards for an approved driver education program, consisting of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least 6 hours of highway driving instruction.

Background: According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), more than 100 million people in the United States have signed up to be an organ donor and an average of 79 people receive an organ transplant each day. However, HHS reports that 18 people die each day while on the waiting list for an organ and that, as of January 16, 2013, 116,674 Americans are waiting for an organ donation. According to the 2012 National Donor Designation Report Card from the organization Donate Life America, Maryland ranked twenty-eighth among states with a 50% donor designation share, which is the number of designated donors as a percentage of all state residents age 18 or older.

State Expenditures: TTF expenditures increase by \$4,653 in fiscal 2014 only for MVA to print and send a redeveloped driver education curriculum guide and related documents to driver education schools around the State. To the extent that MVA cannot implement the new driver education requirement with existing resources TTF expenditures may increase further. For example, MVA advises that the cost of delivering training to driving school managers and instructors is \$29,000 for auditorium rental and contractual staffing. Additionally, MVA advises that an additional part-time driving school inspector may be necessary to ensure compliance with the bill at a cost of more than \$21,600 on an annual basis. However, this estimate does not include these costs as it is assumed training, inspection, and other implementation requirements can be handled with existing resources, including lower cost methods of training outreach with driving schools. The estimate also assumes that MVA and MSDE can handle the regulatory development requirement with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Although likely minimal, the bill may have an adverse impact on small business driving schools to alter current curricula and to the extent that the amount schools are able to charge is reduced commensurately with the reduction in services provided in the school (for courses taken online from a student's home).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, SB 768 (Senator Raskin, *et al.* - Judicial Proceedings) is not identical.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Donate Life America, Department of Legislative Services

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mc/ljm

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