

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 217

(Senator Klausmeier)(By Request - Baltimore County  
Administration)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

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Vehicle Laws - Registration Plates for Individuals with Disabilities - Parking in  
Baltimore County

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This bill specifies that the holder of special registration plates for individuals with disabilities may park in a designated zone for the handicapped established by Baltimore County on a county highway for only the amount of time specified for that parking zone.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund revenues increase minimally beginning in FY 2014 due to the application of existing misdemeanor penalties to violations of the bill and for court costs collected by the District Court. District Court workloads and expenditures are not materially affected assuming the annual number of violations is minimal. Transportation Trust Fund revenues may increase negligibly beginning in FY 2014 due to the collection of \$30 administrative flag removal fees associated with the nonpayment of parking tickets resulting from enforcement of the bill.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Baltimore County operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Motor Vehicle Administration may provide a special disability registration number and plates to the owner of a vehicle who submits satisfactory proof of specified physical disabilities. A licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner,

chiropractor, optometrist, or podiatrist must certify that the vehicle owner has a cardiovascular, lung, ambulatory, visual, or other specified disability in accordance with the Maryland Vehicle Law.

The holder of special disability registration plates is afforded specified parking privileges including the authorization to generally park for unlimited periods in parking zones restricted as to the length of parking time permitted. However, exceptions to this general privilege include a restriction for parking in a metered space (1) for only twice the maximum time period permitted, not to exceed a maximum of four hours or (2) for the maximum authorized period of time if the parking meter permits parking for more than four hours. At any State-owned airport, the individual may park in a designated zone for the handicapped for only the time period in the posted time restriction.

These privileges within the Maryland Vehicle Law supersede any local ordinance, except that they do not apply (1) to zones where stopping, standing, or parking is prohibited for all vehicles; (2) to zones that are reserved for special types of vehicles; (3) where there is a local ordinance that prohibits parking during heavy traffic periods in morning, afternoon, or evening rush hours; or (4) where parking clearly would present a traffic hazard.

A violation of these privileges or other provisions pertaining to the use of special disability registration plates in parking zones is a misdemeanor and, on conviction, subjects the offender to a fine of up to \$500.

**Background:** Baltimore County has established designated parking for holders of special disability registration plates outside of the county courthouse and several other important public buildings. However, the county has advised that certain special disability registration plate holders park in the designated spaces for many hours at a time, often precluding the use of those parking spaces by other eligible individuals.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 347 of 2012 passed the Senate and received a favorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee, but the bill was special ordered until the next session. Its cross file, HB 386, received a hearing in the House Environmental Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** HB 320 (Chair, Baltimore County Delegation)(By Request – Baltimore County Administration) – Environmental Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore County, Maryland Department of Transportation,  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 31, 2013  
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Analysis by: Evan M. Isaacson

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