

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 768

(Senator Raskin, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

Organ Donation Driver Education Act of 2013

This bill requires up to 15 minutes of the required 30 hours of driver education classroom instruction consist of an in-class video course, which is dedicated to education on organ, eye, and tissue donation in the State and how to become a donor.

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. Finally, the estimate assumes that the video course is produced by Donate Life Maryland or another third party. If MVA were responsible for producing the video, TTF expenditures would increase by roughly an additional \$45,000.

Small Business Effect: Although likely minimal, the bill may have an adverse impact on small business driving schools to alter current curricula.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, HB 912 (Delegate Clagett - Environmental Matters) 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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2013
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