

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 233 (Delegate Beidle)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Motor Vehicles - Calculation of Length - Loading Devices

This bill excludes from a measure of the length of a vehicle or combination of vehicles any devices and components that do not extend more than 24 inches beyond the rear of a vehicle and that are needed for loading or unloading cargo but are not used to carry property. The bill codifies a provision of federal highway regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practices authorized by federal law.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland Vehicle Law establishes several length limits for vehicles and vehicle combinations subject to various exceptions and allowances for certain types of loads and other devices connected to a vehicle. The length of a vehicle generally includes its front and rear bumpers and any part of its load that extends beyond the vehicle, but it excludes nonload-bearing safety and energy conservation devices, such as marker lamps, steps and handholds for entry and egress, front-mounted refrigeration units, and front-mounted air compressors.

Federal Highway Administration regulations exclude from the measured length of a commercial motor vehicle all nonproperty-carrying devices, or components thereof, that do not extend more than 24 inches beyond the rear of the vehicle and are needed for loading or unloading.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2015
mel/ljm

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