

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1025 (Delegates Folden and Cluster)
Environment and Transportation

School Vehicles - Right Turn on Red - Prohibition

This bill prohibits a school vehicle from turning right (or left from a one-way street onto a one-way street) after stopping at a steady red signal.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Workloads may increase for local schools and/or boards of education, particularly those in more urbanized jurisdictions, to ensure that bus routes and schedules are able to accommodate the bill's prohibition and make alterations, as needed. Otherwise, the bill is not anticipated to materially affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Unless a sign prohibits otherwise, a vehicle may turn right, or left from a one-way street onto another one-way street, after stopping at a steady red signal. There are no exceptions to this generally applicable authorization for school vehicles or otherwise.

A "school vehicle" is defined as any motor vehicle that is used regularly for the exclusive transportation of children, students, or teachers for educational purposes or in connection with a school activity and is one of two types of vehicles, both of which are typically considered school buses.

Background: According to the American Automobile Association (better known as AAA), at least one state – Kentucky – does not allow a school bus to turn right on red.

According to 2014 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, between 2003 and 2012, there were 89 crashes involving school buses in which an occupant of the bus was killed. It is unclear how many, if any, of the crashes involved a school bus turning right after stopping at a red light, but data indicates that the left side of the bus was struck in 9.0% of these crashes, compared with 14.6% of crashes involving the right side, and 49.4% involving the front of the vehicle.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, American Automobile Association, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2015
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Analysis by: Evan M. Isaacson

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