

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 609 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Environment and Transportation

Prince George's County - Motorcycle Operators - Penalties for Speed Violations
PG 311-15

This bill establishes a \$1,000 penalty for a person convicted of operating a motorcycle at a speed of at least 40 miles per hour above the posted speed limit in Prince George's County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues increase, likely negligibly, beginning in FY 2016 from the collection by the District Court of the bill's enhanced penalty. Expenditures are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill may decrease Prince George's County law enforcement workloads to the extent that the bill's enhanced penalty results in fewer violations involving speeding by motorcycles in the county. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Unless there is a special danger that requires a lower speed, the maximum lawful speeds on a highway are (1) 15 miles per hour in alleys in Baltimore County; (2) 30 miles per hour on all highways in a business district and on undivided highways in a residential district; (3) 35 miles per hour on divided highways in a residential district; (4) 50 miles per hour on undivided highways in other locations; and (6) 55 miles per hour on divided highways in other locations. A maximum speed limit of more than 65 miles an hour may not be established on any highway in the State.

A violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law, including speed limits, is a misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of \$500, unless otherwise specified by a separate penalty. Generally, violations of the speed limit provisions are subject to this general \$500 maximum penalty, although separate and greater penalties apply for violations in work zones and school zones. Additionally, the District Court has established a fine schedule for speeding infractions based on the amount by which the violator exceeded the speed limit, which applies to fines that are prepaid (and not contested in court). This schedule ranges from a prepaid fine (including court costs) of \$80 for exceeding the speed limit by between 1 and 9 miles per hour to \$530 for exceeding the speed limit by at least 40 miles per hour; the prepaid fine for speeding at least 40 miles per hour in excess of the speed limit in a school zone is \$1,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Prince George's County, the Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2015
me/ljm

Analysis by: Evan M. Isaacson

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