

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1224 (Delegate Lam, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Organ Donation Driver Education Act of 2016

This bill requires that no more than 15 minutes of the required 30 hours of driver education classroom instruction must consist of an in-class video course that is dedicated to education on organ, eye, and tissue donation in the State and how to become a donor.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) advises that the driver education curriculum already includes an in-class video that meets the bill's requirements.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MVA is required to, in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education, 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 120 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 22 people die each day while on the waiting list for an organ and that, as of March 1, 2016, 121,455 Americans are waiting for an organ donation. According to the 2014 National Donor Designation Report Card from the organization Donate Life America, Maryland had a 54% donor designation share in 2013, which is the number of designated donors as a percentage of all state residents age 18 or older.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 768 of 2013 passed the Senate with amendments and received a favorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 912, received a hearing in the House Environmental Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Donate Life America, Department of Legislative Services

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mel/ljm

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