

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 580

(Senator Ramirez)

Judicial Proceedings

Motor Vehicles - Duplicate Driver's Licenses - Victims of Robbery or Burglary

This bill allows an individual whose driver's license has been stolen to drive without a license for a two-week period as long as that individual reports the robbery or burglary to the police in a timely manner. The driver is required to apply for a duplicate license within two weeks of the robbery or burglary. If the driver applying for a duplicate license presents a police report of the robbery or burglary, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must issue a duplicate license free of charge.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MVA can implement the bill's requirements with existing resources. Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues decrease, likely minimally, beginning in FY 2019 as fewer individuals pay a duplicate license fee. General fund revenues may decrease minimally due to fewer citations being issued.

Local Effect: Any changes to local police enforcement processes can be handled with existing resources. Local government revenues are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Persons driving on a Maryland highway are required to carry their driver's license with them and to display it to a uniformed police officer on demand. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor; the prepaid fine established by the District Court is \$50.

Should a driver's license be lost, stolen, mutilated, or destroyed, the driver is required to immediately apply for a duplicate license. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor; the prepaid fine established by the District Court is \$70.

MVA notes that it already has a process in place to address situations where a victim of robbery or burglary seeks to obtain a duplicate driver's license. However, individuals are currently charged a \$20 duplicate license fee.

State Revenues: Because the \$20 duplicate license fee may no longer be charged by MVA in the circumstances specified under the bill, TTF revenues decrease, likely minimally, beginning in fiscal 2019. MVA advises that its Investigation Division processed 41 requests for duplicate driver's licenses in 2017 that were requested as the result of a crime; of those, only 4 were a result of burglary or robbery. Based on these figures, the amount of any revenue loss associated with the bill is expected to be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 244 of 2017, a similar bill, received an unfavorable report by the House Environment and Transportation Committee. Its cross file, SB 1163, was referred to the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken. Another similar bill, HB 9 of 2008, received a hearing in the House Environmental Matters Committee and was subsequently withdrawn.

Cross File: HB 132 (Delegate Fennell, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

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

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md/ljm

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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