

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 626

(Senator Smith, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Vehicle Registration – Exemption From Registration Fees – Surviving Spouses of Veterans

This bill exempts all vehicles owned (and personally used) by a surviving spouse of a deceased disabled veteran from vehicle registration fees. As a result, the bill repeals the requirement that the surviving spouse of a deceased disabled veteran be at least 65 years old to qualify for a registration fee exemption.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations as the number of people eligible for the exemption is expected to be minimal.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The contribution of the U.S. Armed Forces is recognized through several provisions within the Maryland Vehicle Law. Specifically, Maryland has exemptions from registration fees for veterans with certain disabilities and vehicles owned by national veterans' organizations as well as special registration plates for honorably discharged veterans; recipients of individually earned, combat-related, U.S. Armed Forces medals; and recipients of a U.S. Department of Defense Gold Star indicating status as a surviving spouse, parent, or next of kin of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who lost his/her life in combat.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1162 (Delegate P. Young, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2018
md/ljm Third Reader - March 22, 2018

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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