

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 368

(Senator West, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Environment and Transportation

Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport - Security Screening Checkpoint - Charitable Donations

This bill requires the Executive Director of the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall Airport) to place and maintain donation boxes at the entrance to each security screening checkpoint at the airport. Money collected by the donation boxes must be appropriated for the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) to be used only to support transitional housing programs for individuals with disabilities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in general fund revenues from donations; general fund expenditures increase correspondingly. Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by approximately \$20,000 annually beginning in FY 2020.

(in dollars)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
GF Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
GF Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
SF Expenditure	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Net Effect	(\$20,000)	(\$20,000)	(\$20,000)	(\$20,000)	(\$20,000)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

The Maryland Aviation Administration and BWI Marshall Airport

The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), as a unit of the Maryland Department of Transportation, has responsibility for fostering, developing, and regulating aviation activity throughout the State. MAA is responsible for operating, maintaining, and developing BWI Marshall Airport (a State-owned airport) as a major center of commercial air carrier service in the State.

Housing Transition Program

MDOD's Housing Transition Program provides small grants to Maryland Centers for Independent Living (MCILs) serving people with disabilities who are transitioning to independent affordable and accessible housing in communities of their choice. Many are first-time renters who are exiting from nursing facilities, group homes, or other institutional settings. MCILs use the funds to help participants of MDOD's three affordable housing programs specific to people with disabilities purchase low-cost basic necessities needed for successful tenancy. Eligible uses include the purchase of items on behalf of the tenant, such as linens, kitchen utensils, cleaning supplies, and plastic folding tables. MDOD began providing grants to MCILs in fiscal 2018, with an initial grant of \$10,000.

Donation Boxes in Other Airports

In 2013, Denver International Airport implemented a similar program; donation boxes are placed outside security checkpoints, and funds are used to support homeless individuals. According to a [2016 press release](#), the airport collected about \$96,000 in 2014 and \$87,000 in 2015. Since that time, a number of other airports around the world, including in Phoenix, Arizona, have implemented similar programs.

State Fiscal Effect:

Donations for Transitional Housing Programs

General fund revenues increase due to any donations collected by MAA. General fund expenditures increase correspondingly for MDOD, as required by the bill, to support transitional housing programs for individuals with disabilities. Because BWI Marshall Airport has not previously implemented a donation box program, the total amount of revenue that may be generated cannot be reliably estimated. *For contextual purposes*, as noted above, Denver International Airport collected an average of \$91,000 annually in

2014 and 2015. However, Denver International Airport serves significantly more passengers than BWI Marshall Airport on an annual basis. Accordingly, any impact on general fund revenues and expenditures is not anticipated to be significant. Assuming the amount of additional funding for MDOD resulting from the bill is not significant, MDOD can implement the bill with existing staff.

Maryland Aviation Administration Costs to Place and Maintain Donation Boxes

TTF expenditures increase by approximately \$20,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2020. This estimate includes \$5,000 in costs in fiscal 2020 only to purchase the donation boxes, which assumes that MAA uses the type of donation boxes used by Denver International Airport. It also includes costs for MAA to contract with its existing cash collection service to handle the money collected as a result of the bill (estimated at \$15,000 in fiscal 2020 and \$20,000 annually thereafter).

Additional Comments: MAA advises that placing donation boxes in front of security checkpoints may result in additional security risks depending on how the donations boxes are implemented. To the extent security issues arise, MAA advises that it may need additional law enforcement personnel. The Department of Legislative Services advises, however, that any such impact is speculative.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 320 of 2018, a similar bill, received a hearing in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 1231, received a hearing in the House Environment and Transportation Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Housing and Community Development; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland Department of Disabilities; Department of Legislative Services

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